



Future Leaders with One Heart

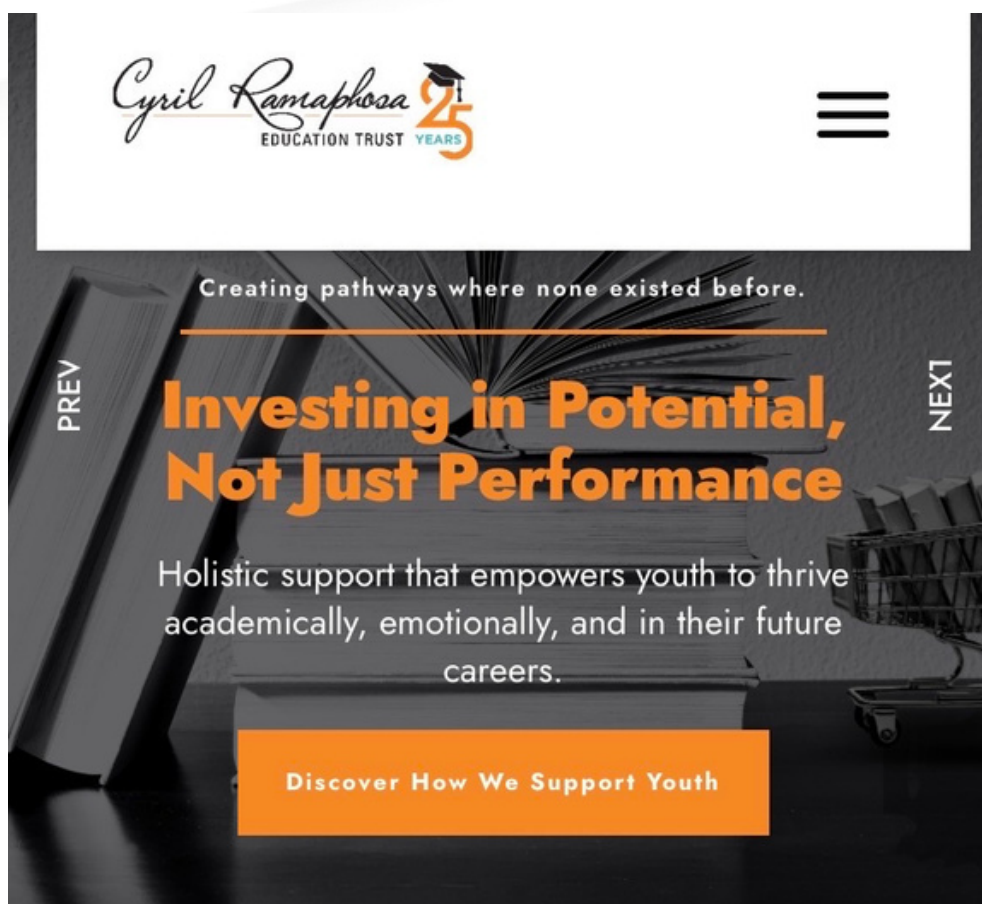
UPDATES

Issue #6



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Welcome to CRET's Digital Home



For more than 25 years, Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET) has walked alongside young South Africans as they pursue access to further education, skills development, leadership, and opportunity.

What began as a commitment to support a handful of students has evolved into a powerful network of graduates, professionals, and changemakers shaping the future of South Africa.

Today, we turn the page to an exciting new chapter.

We are proud to introduce our new digital home: www.cret.online

More than just a website, this resource-rich platform is a living reflection of the CRET story, bringing to life the journeys of our students, the strength of our partnerships, the offerings of our youth support initiatives, and the impact of a community committed to transformation.

Through this new space, you can explore:

- Our holistic support model that goes beyond financial assistance
- The inspiring journeys of CRET students and alumni
- Opportunities to partner, contribute, and make a difference
- The growing legacy of CRET's impact across South Africa
- Our growing online support store

Because at CRET, we know that when one student succeeds, the impact extends far beyond the individual, to families, communities, and future generations.

Visit us and be part of the story: www.cret.online

For programme sponsorship opportunities, contact coosthuizen@cyrilramaphosa.org.

Inside CRET's Youth Enhancement Experience



What does it take to shape the next generation of leaders? As part of CRET's holistic support we offer two programmes each year, where our current cohort gather in person at our Youth Enhancement Programme (YEP).

For 45 young people from across South Africa, the Summer 2026 YEP offered a powerful answer, creating a space not just for learning, but for transformation.

Students stepped into an environment designed to challenge and inspire them. Through interactive sessions, they explored leadership, strengthened their critical thinking, and developed the confidence to navigate both academic and personal challenges.

But the true impact of YEP was found in the moments in between.

In shared conversations, group activities, and peer exchanges, students built connections, discovered new perspectives, and learned the value of collaboration and mutual support.

A memorable aspect of this year's summer programme was hearing directly from CRET alumni and Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation leadership. Stories of resilience and perseverance served as a powerful reminder: setbacks are not barriers; they are steppingstones.

Beyond academic success, the programme placed a strong emphasis on what it means to thrive holistically. Students engaged with themes of mental well-being, mentorship, volunteering, and time management exercises, equipping them with tools that extend beyond the classroom.

By the end of the programme, participants left with more than knowledge. They carried renewed confidence, a stronger sense of purpose, and a commitment to uplift others. Because investing in young people is not just about education, it is about shaping the leaders who will build South Africa's future.

Partner with us to empower the next generation: info@cyrilramaphosa.org

How the CRET Bookstore is Driving Youth Employability

For many young South Africans, the journey to employment does not start with a qualification. It stalls at an unexpected barrier: the lack of a driver's licence.

Despite completing their studies, countless graduates find themselves excluded from job opportunities simply because they lack the mobility required in today's workforce.

At CRET, this is a challenge we are actively addressing.

Through the CRET Drive to Thrive Initiative, students are supported to obtain their learner's and driver's licences before graduation, ensuring they are fully prepared to transition into the world of work.

To date, 91 students have already been supported. But the need remains urgent and the opportunity to do more is within reach.

This is where the CRET Bookstore becomes more than a platform for books.

It becomes a vehicle for change.

Every purchase made through the CRET Bookstore contributes directly to funding:

- Learner's licence preparation
- Driver's training lessons
- Testing and licensing costs

Each book carries more than knowledge, it carries opportunity.

It helps close the gap between education and employment.
It equips students with practical tools for independence.
It opens doors that would otherwise remain closed.

Our goal is clear: to double our impact and ensure that even more students graduate not only qualified but truly work-ready.

When you buy a book, you invest in a future.

Explore the [CRET Bookstore](#) and be part of a story that moves young people forward, not just in their careers, but in their lives.



Tshepo Lepote's Journey of Purpose and Heritage



Every CRET journey tells a story. Tshepo Lepote's is one of purpose, identity, and bold ambition.

From his early days as a CRET student in 2007, pursuing a BCom Accounting degree, to achieving his Honours at the University of Johannesburg, Tshepo has consistently carved a path defined by growth and leadership.

Recently featured on Radio 2000, Tshepo shared insights into his entrepreneurial journey and the vision behind his proudly South African brand, [Sole of Heritage](#).

His story is one of evolution, from the corporate world to becoming a purpose-driven entrepreneur, and from student to leader, having also served as Deputy Chairperson of the CRET Alumni Advisory Board.

Founded in Soweto, Sole of Heritage is more than a footwear brand. It is a celebration of African identity, culture, and unity, brought to life through thoughtful design and storytelling.

At its core, the brand reflects Tshepo's commitment to something greater: creating opportunity, inspiring young people, and using entrepreneurship as a tool for empowerment.

His journey is a powerful reminder that success is not only measured by personal achievement, but by the impact one has on others.

We are proud to celebrate Tshepo as he continues to walk his path with purpose, carrying his heritage, and the CRET legacy, forward.

Reimagining Student Accommodation for Impact



What role does student accommodation play in shaping academic success?

This critical question took centre stage as Chantelle Oosthuizen, Executive Director of the Cyril Ramaphosa Education Trust (CRET), joined the inaugural episode of The Growthpoint View podcast.

In conversation with industry leaders from Growthpoint, the discussion unpacked how purpose-built student accommodation is evolving, not just as an investment asset, but as a key enabler of student success.

The conversation highlighted the factors that matter most: proximity to campus, quality and accreditation, and the importance of operational excellence. But beyond these fundamentals, it also explored a broader shift, towards investments that deliver both financial returns and meaningful social impact.

At CRET, we see this reality every day.

Access to safe, well-located, and supportive accommodation can significantly influence a student's academic journey, sense of belonging, and overall well-being.

As a strategic partner to Growthpoint Properties, CRET is proud to contribute to this important dialogue, one that recognises that student success is shaped not only in lecture halls, but in the environments where students live and grow.

Watch the full conversation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qVcXKkv-gk>

Join Us in Shaping South Africa's Future



At CRET, we believe that meaningful, lasting change is built through partnership.

For 25 years, our work has been made possible by corporates, foundations, and individuals who share a common vision: expanding access to education and unlocking opportunity for South Africa's youth.

Yet, the need remains significant.

Every year, talented young people with the potential to succeed are held back by financial, social, and systemic barriers. Through CRET's holistic support model, we work to remove these barriers, equipping students not only to access higher education, but to grow, graduate, and transition successfully into the world of work.

This is where partnership becomes powerful. Whether you are a corporate organisation seeking to invest in sustainable development, a foundation aligned to youth empowerment, or an individual looking to make a meaningful contribution, there are multiple ways to get involved:

- Partner with us to support student funding and holistic development
- Collaborate on targeted initiatives that enhance employability and skills development
- Contribute to programmes that drive leadership, mentorship, and community impact
- Co-create solutions that address the evolving needs of young people in South Africa

By working together, we can scale impact, deepen transformation, and create pathways to opportunity for the next generation.

We invite you to partner with CRET and be part of building a future where every young person has the opportunity to succeed.

To explore partnership opportunities, please contact us at info@cyrilramaphosa.org