

2024-2025 ICGS Moulton Student Global Citizenship Grant Recipients: St Stithians Girls' College, Roedean School for Girls (SOUTH AFRICA)

PROJECT: BOOST-A-BUDDY PROGRAMME

The Boost-a-Buddy Programme is a transformative mentorship initiative connecting St Stithians Girls' College and Roedean School for Girls with Iphutheng Primary School in Alexandra Township, South Africa. Designed to support Grade 7 girls from underserved backgrounds, the program pairs them with mentors from Grades 8 and 9, fostering academic, social, and emotional growth. Through structured mentorship, cultural exchange activities, and collaborative learning experiences, students develop confidence, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of their nation's social fabric. The mentorship process allows younger students to gain insight into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, while older students develop a sense of responsibility and learn how to lead with empathy.

This initiative bridges socio-economic divides by creating meaningful connections between students from affluent suburbs and those from under-resourced communities. Throughout the year, participants engage in activities such as reflective journaling, team-building exercises, and educational excursions, including visits to nature reserves and historical sites. These immersive experiences expose students to different perspectives, encouraging empathy, resilience, and a commitment to social responsibility. Additionally, hands-on learning activities, such as community service projects and interactive workshops, allow students to work together in addressing real-world challenges, strengthening their problem-solving skills and deepening their appreciation for diverse backgrounds and experiences.

With the support of the Moulton Student Global Citizenship Grant, the Boost-a-Buddy Programme aims to expand its reach, enhancing its impact through additional excursions, educational materials, and mentorship training. The funding will ensure continued access to transportation, facilitators, and resources, enabling more students to benefit from this transformative initiative. By fostering leadership, cultural awareness, and a sense of community, the program equips young women with the tools to drive positive change in their communities and beyond. Expanding the program will also allow for the inclusion of more structured leadership development opportunities, enabling students to build skills in communication, teamwork, and advocacy. These skills will not only aid them in their academic and personal growth but will also prepare them for future leadership roles within their schools and communities.

The program exemplifies the mission of the International Coalition of Girls' Schools by inspiring students to embrace leadership and advocacy through education and service. By strengthening cross-cultural relationships and empowering young women to recognize their ability to effect change, Boost-a-Buddy is shaping a new generation of socially conscious and compassionate leaders prepared to make a difference in the world. The long-term impact of the program extends beyond individual participants, as students who have been a part of Boost-a-Buddy are likely to carry these lessons forward, influencing their peers and advocating for inclusive, community-driven solutions to social issues. By instilling a lifelong commitment to service and leadership, the programme plays a crucial role in shaping the next generation of changemakers.