

#IAMANEDUCATIONCHAMPION MAGAZINE

JUNE 2026, ISSUE #36

76'INSPIRED
FASHION FOR
OFFICE

BOGUS JOB
INTERVIEWS

PERFECTION
TRAP AMONG
STUDENTS

HIDDEN BIAS
IN GRADUATE
RECRUITMENT

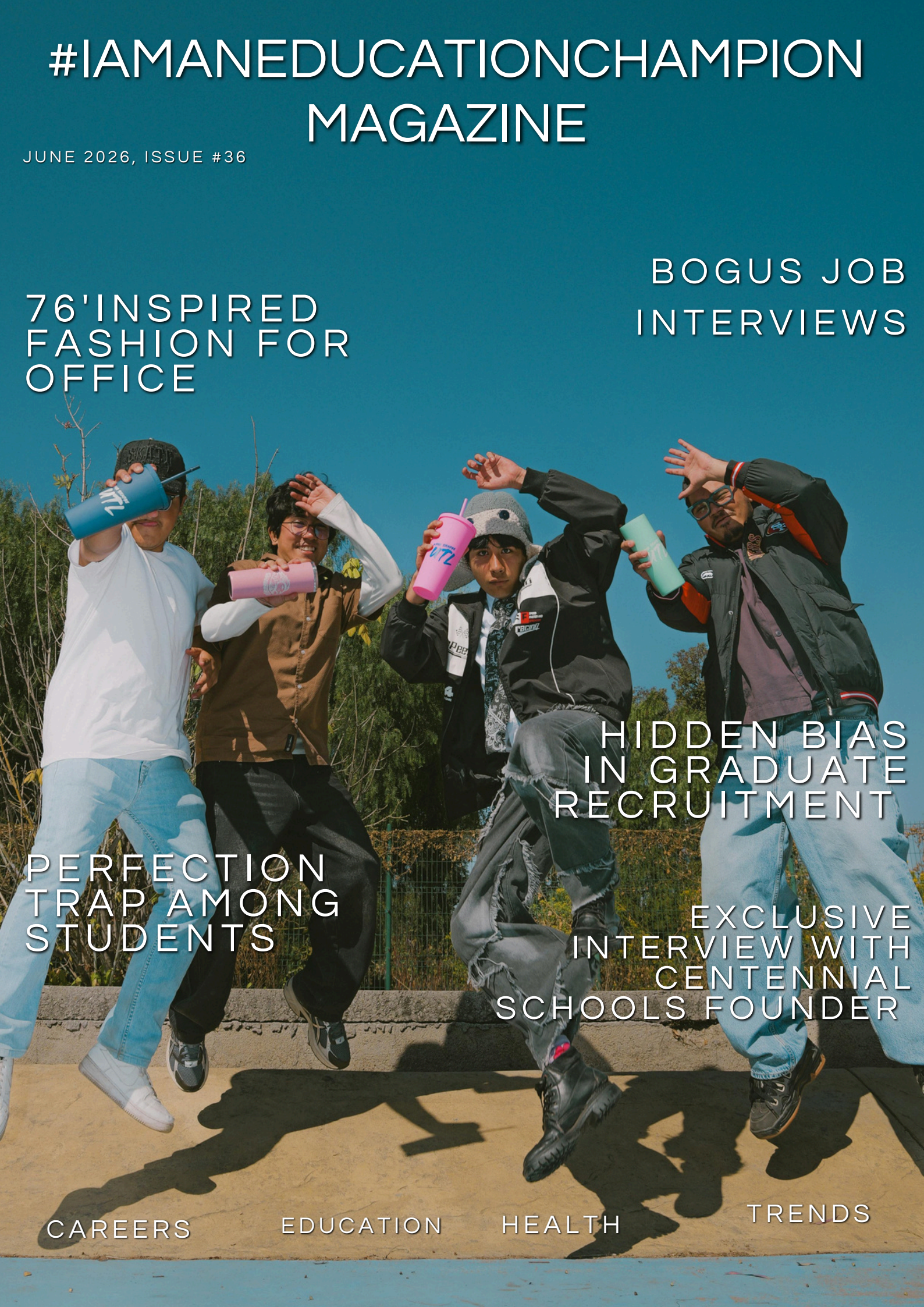
EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW WITH
CENTENNIAL
SCHOOLS FOUNDER

CAREERS

EDUCATION

HEALTH

TRENDS



#IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine

Editor-in-Chief

Thulisa Mangcotywa

Fashion and Beauty editor

Pearl Nzama

Content Director

Theodore Lewitz

Art Director

Buhle Mbangula

Photographers

Francois Mercer,
Hannah Morley

Writers

Lwazi Feni, Neo Morokane,
Rato Masilela

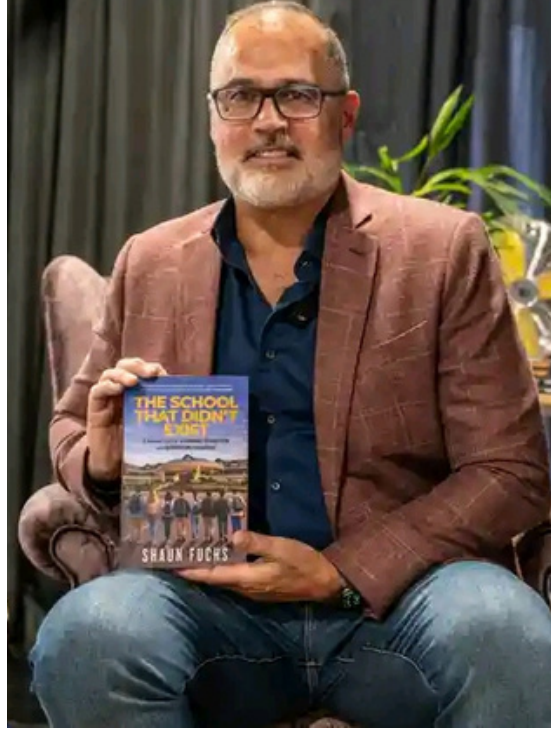
Healthy Wealthy You Magazine is produced by Fezekisa Group Pty Ltd
082 Vodacom Lane Nobel Street Brandwag Bloemfontein 9301

The views, opinions, and expressions expressed by authors, contributors, interviewees, and advertisers in #IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine are solely their own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or views of the magazine's editorial team, publishers, or associated partners. While every effort is made to ensure that the information, educational insights, career guidance, and features contained within this publication are accurate, up-to-date, and reliable at the time of printing, the publisher accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

The content provided in this magazine is intended for informational, inspirational, and educational purposes only. It should not be viewed as a substitute for professional academic, legal, financial, or career counseling. Publication of advertisements, promotional features, or institutional profiles does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by #IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine. The publisher cannot be held liable for the quality, delivery, or safety of products, programs, or services advertised herein.

Copyright and Reproduction

© 2026 #IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine. All rights reserved. No part of this publication—including text, graphics, and layout—may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law.

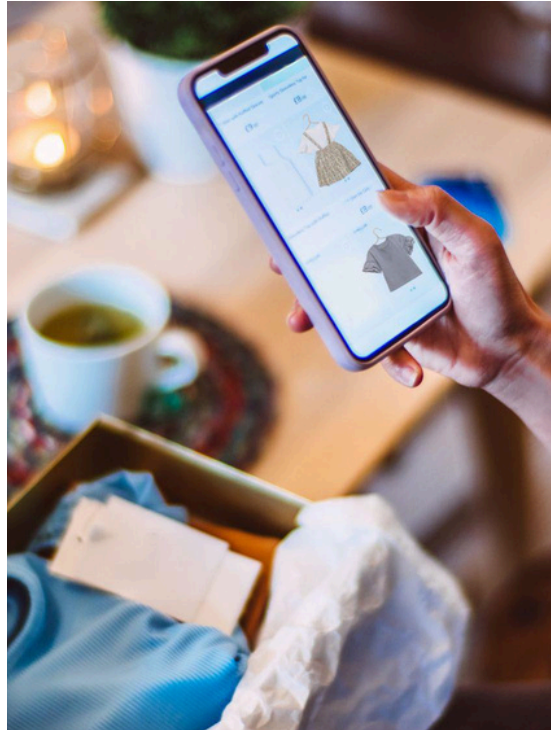


ate Tech Academy Graduates





#IAMANEDUCATIONCHAMPION
MAGAZINE

JUNE 2026



RISING STARS CAREER EXPO 2026



Tembisa Johannesburg	Umlazi Durban
28 July 2026	11-13 August 2026
Contact Details: 072 910 9378	

CONTENT FEATURES

REGULAR CONTENT

Out and About: Rise76: The Story of June 16th

Book Review: "The School That Didn't Exist," Shaun Fuchs

Inspirational Feature Interview: With Founder & CEO of Centennial Schools, Shaun Fuchs

Fashion and Beauty: 76 Inspired Fashion for Office



Community Corner: How Bogus Job Interviews Are Duping Job Seekers

CAMPUSCONNECT

Tech News: BMW Class of Tech Giants

Health and Wellness: AI Meal Shopping Hack

How To Advertise With Us

RSCE2026 Dates



Reader's Corner: Perfection Trap Among Tertiary Students

Graduates HR Insights: Relatability Code, A Hidden Bias in Graduates Recruitment

Visit

[HTTPS://RISINGSTARSCAREEREXPO2026.GOD
ADDYSITES.COM/](https://risingstarscareerexpo2026.godaddysites.com/)

to download this current issue



Looking for career inspiration outside the traditional classroom? This Youth Month, we take you to Johannesburg's iconic Market Theatre (Mannie Manim space) for a masterclass in creative careers.

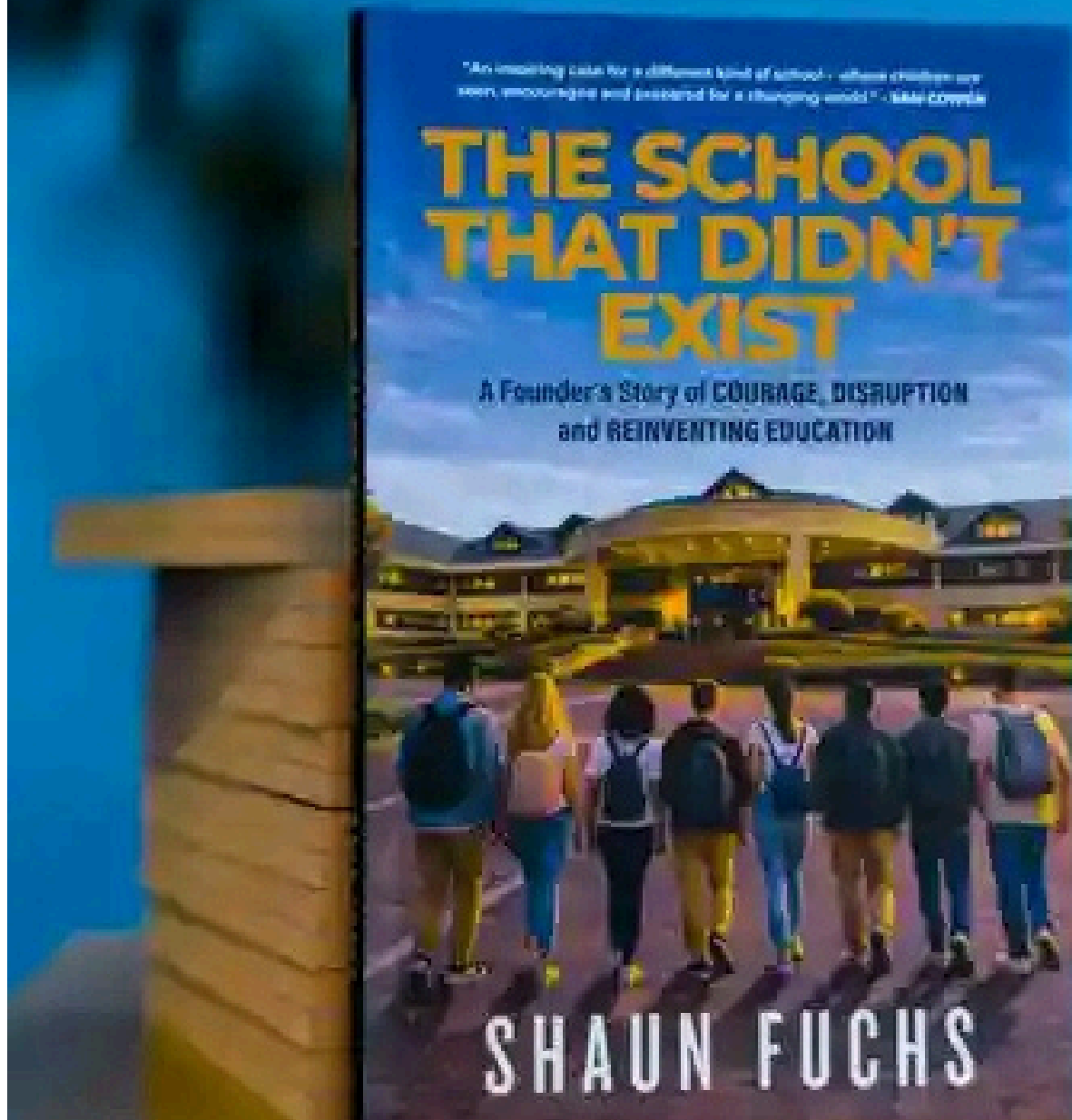
Running from June 5 to June 28, 2026, "Rise '76: The Story of June 16th" demonstrates how history can be transformed into a powerful professional path. Crafted by acclaimed, two-time Fleur du Cap award-winning Playwright and Director Tisetso Mashifane wa Noni, this documentary-style masterpiece brings history alive.

Built from interviews with over 40 individuals, it explores the intimate domestic moments leading up to the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

For students aspiring to enter Theatre Production, Research, or Directing, witnessing this level of storytelling is a must. Catch the show Tuesday–Saturday at 19:00 or Sundays at 15:00. Tickets range from R140 to R220 on Webtickets (with half-price Wednesday specials). Contact: +27 11 832 1641 info@markettheatre.co.za



Out and About



Title: "The School That Didn't Exist"

Author: Shaun Fuchs

For South African students navigating an uncertain job market, Shaun Fuchs's "The School That Didn't Exist" is a masterclass in modern resilience. Part memoir, part educational manifesto, the book chronicles how Fuchs disrupted traditional models to found Sandton's Centennial Schools during the pandemic—starting fresh at age 52 without institutional backing.

Fuchs challenges traditional educational structures that reward memorization over mindset, arguing that these frameworks prepare youth for a world that no longer exists. Instead, he advocates for an environment built on curiosity, adaptability, and critical thinking—crucial traits for thriving alongside artificial intelligence.

Book Review

For readers of #IAMAnEducationChampion Magazine, this book is a powerful reminder that career paths are rarely linear. Fuchs proves that with courage, you can dismantle outdated systems, redefine your purpose, and build your own future from the ground up.

Price & Ordering Information

Retail Price: R300.00

How to Order:

Visit the official website: shaunfuchs.co.za/shop

INSIDE CENTENNIAL Schools education revolution

By Thulisa Mangcotywa
Photography by Centennial Schools

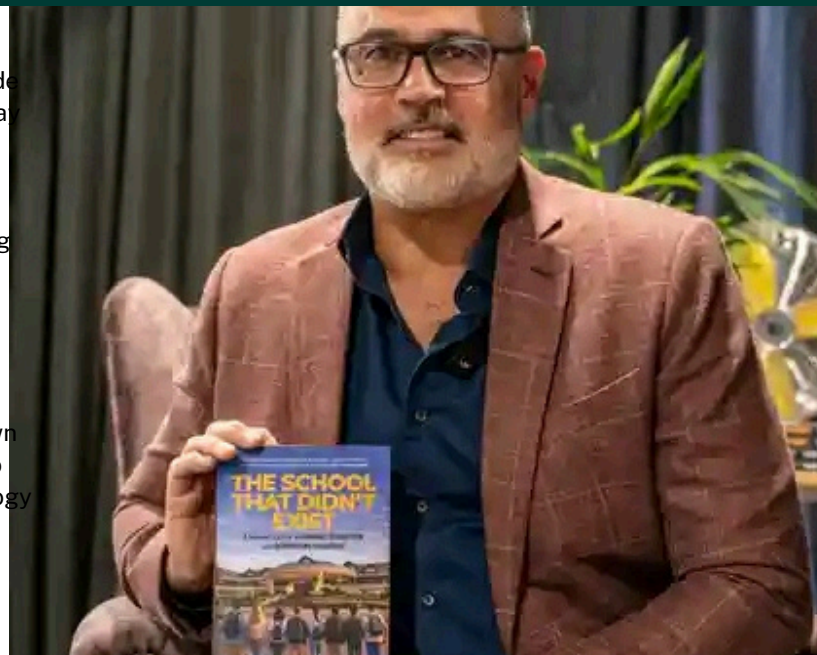
As the demands of the modern world shift at an unprecedented pace, traditional schooling models are increasingly challenged to keep up. Centennial Schools has emerged as a vibrant response to this challenge, quickly growing from a small, visionary cohort into a thriving community. At the heart of this transformation is a commitment to blending rigorous academics with real-world, future-proof skills.

In this exclusive feature, we sit down with Shaun Fuchs, the Founder and CEO of Centennial Schools, to discuss how the institution is reshaping the classroom experience, building a deeply inclusive culture, and preparing today's youth to navigate the complexities of tomorrow with confidence.

#IAmAnEducationChampion: Centennial Schools has quickly made a name for itself in the educational landscape. What would you say makes the school truly unique in how it supports its students?

Shaun Fuchs: Centennial Schools was founded on the belief that education must evolve to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. What makes our school unique is that we combine strong academic foundations with a future-focused approach that develops critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, entrepreneurship, and digital literacy.

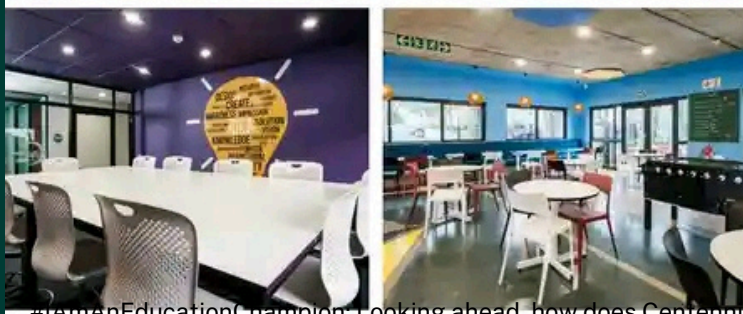
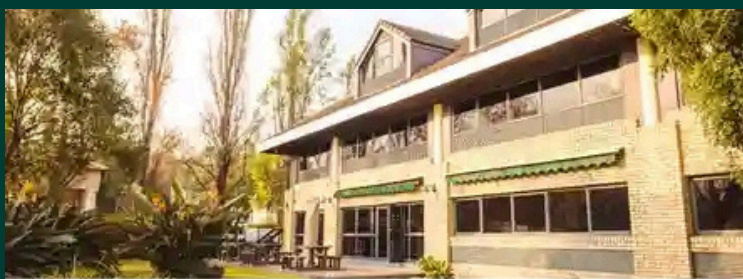
We intentionally create an environment where students are known as individuals, supported by caring educators, and encouraged to explore their strengths and passions. Our learning hubs, technology integration, eSports programme, business and entrepreneurship initiatives, and emphasis on student wellbeing all contribute to a learning experience designed for the future rather than the past.



#IAmAnEducationChampion: Looking ahead, how does Centennial Schools actively prepare its students for life beyond the classroom?

Shaun Fuchs: The world our students will enter is changing faster than ever before. While academic success remains important, we believe students must also develop the skills that cannot easily be replaced by technology. We focus on communication, collaboration, adaptability, resilience, leadership, and entrepreneurial thinking. Through real-world projects, leadership opportunities, public speaking, business competitions, technology programmes,

community engagement, and exposure to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, students learn how to navigate complexity and uncertainty with confidence. Our goal is not simply to prepare students for examinations, but to prepare them for life.



#IAmAnEducationChampion: Looking ahead, how does Centennial Schools



#IAmAnEducationChampion: Reflecting on the journey so far, what



#IAmAnEducationChampion: Reflecting on the journey so far, what achievement at Centennial Schools are you most proud of?

Shaun Fuchs: While we are proud of many achievements, including our strong academic results and the success of our first matric class, I am most proud of the culture we have built.

Centennial Schools opened in 2022 with just 35 students. Today, we have grown into a thriving school community because families, staff, and students share a belief in what education can become. Seeing students develop confidence, discover their talents, and embrace opportunities that did not exist in traditional schooling is the achievement that gives me the greatest sense of pride.

#IAmAnEducationChampion: A thriving culture relies heavily on community. How do you foster a genuine culture of inclusion and belonging at the school?

Shaun Fuchs: Belonging starts with relationships. We work hard to ensure that every student feels seen, valued, and respected. Our educators take the time to know students as individuals, understanding their strengths, challenges, and aspirations.

We celebrate diversity, encourage respectful dialogue, and create opportunities for students from different backgrounds and interests to connect through academics, sport, technology, leadership, and cultural activities. Inclusion is not a programme or initiative; it is a daily commitment to creating a school where every student feels that they matter.



#IAmAnEducationChampion: What message would you like to share with our readers and aspiring education champions?

Shaun Fuchs: Education has always been about preparing young people for the future. The challenge today is that the future is changing faster than at any other point in history. My message to aspiring education champions is simple: be willing to question assumptions, embrace innovation, and remain focused on what matters most – the growth and potential of every child.

The schools that will make the greatest difference are not those that simply preserve tradition, but those that have the courage to reimagine what learning can be while never losing sight of the human relationships at the heart of education.

76'INSPIRED FASHION FOR OFFICE

Fashion is never just about clothes; it is a visual language of identity, culture, and power. As young professionals entering the modern South African workforce, how we dress can project confidence, honor our history, and showcase our creative edge. This Youth Month, we are looking back to the iconic style era of 1976 to build a powerful, professional wardrobe that commands respect in the boardroom while celebrating heritage.

The youth of 1976 used their voices to change history, and their era's style was equally bold, structured, and intentional. Stripping away the casualness of weekend wear, '76-inspired corporate fashion channels sharp lines, rich earth tones, and tailored silhouettes that strike the perfect balance between vintage respect and modern authority.

Four Ways to Bring 1976 Dignity into the Modern Workplace

To successfully rock this look without looking like you are wearing a historical costume, the trick is to mix one or two retro elements with sleek, contemporary office basics.



From Casual to Elegant

The Power of Wide-Lapel Blazers & Trench Coats

The mid-70s were famous for dramatic, structured outerwear. Look for blazers with wider, pronounced lapels or double-breasted button detailing. A well-tailored, belted trench coat or safari-style jacket instantly adds corporate authority when walking into an interview or presentation.

High-Waisted, Structured Bottoms

Ditch the low-rise or ultra-skinny cuts. True '76 inspiration lives in structured, high-waisted trousers, A-line midi skirts, and subtle wide-leg pants. Pairing a high-waisted, wide-leg trouser with a tucked-in corporate shirt lengthens your silhouette and radiates an effortlessly polished, professional energy.

Earthy Palettes and Rich Textures

The color palette of the late 70s is incredibly workspace-friendly. Move away from boring all-black suits and experiment with:

Tones: Mustard yellow, burnt orange, deep terracotta, olive green, and rich chocolate browns.

76' Outfit Inspiration



Earthy Palettes and Rich Textures

The color palette of the late 70s is incredibly workspace-friendly. Move away from boring all-black suits and experiment with:

Tones: Mustard yellow, burnt orange, deep terracotta, olive green, and rich chocolate browns.

Textures: Corduroy blazers, knitted polo shirts, tweed, and high-quality cotton blends.

Statement Collars and Smart Knits

Turtle-necks (polo necks) worn underneath a sharp blazer scream vintage intellectual and are perfect for chilly winter boardroom meetings. Alternatively, look for button-up shirts with slightly elongated, pointed collars to peek out over your suit jacket.



YOUR TIME TO
SHINE IS NOW



Perfection Trap Among Tertiary Students

You have to graduate cum laude.
You need the perfect LinkedIn profile before you even turn 21.
Your CV has to be flawless, or you'll get swallowed up by the unemployment statistics. If you make one mistake, your entire future is at risk... If these thoughts keep you up at night, you are not alone.

A groundbreaking global study published on 28 May 2026 in *Psychological Bulletin* confirms what many South African students have been feeling for years: becoming trapped in an accelerating cycle of perfectionism.

Co-authored by Dr Thomas Curran, an Associate Professor of Social Psychology, the study analyzed 35 years of data from over 82,000 students. The findings are a wake-up call for educators, parents, and students alike. Perfectionism is no longer just a personal quirk or a standard interview answer for

“What is your biggest weakness?”
It is a growing mental health crisis driven by the world around us.

What is Perfectionism?

The study reveals that two specific types of perfectionism are skyrocketing among young people: Perfectionistic Strivings: Setting impossibly high standards for yourself and working yourself to the bone to meet them.

The darker side. This is the paralyzing fear of failure, excessive worrying over mistakes, indecisiveness, and intense anxiety about being judged negatively by others.

While the study focused on data from the UK, US, and Canada, the underlying drivers hit incredibly close to home for anyone walking any South African institution. For years, older generations have blamed smartphones and Instagram for youth anxiety. But Dr Curran's research challenges this, proving that the rise of perfectionism predates social

media. Instead, it is closely tied to macroeconomic conditions. The study found a direct link between rising income inequality, declining economic growth, and the acceleration of perfectionism.

In South Africa, where youth unemployment numbers are terrifyingly high and the economic climate is intensely competitive, the pressure to be perfect is a survival mechanism. Students feel that the margin for error has shrunk to zero. A single failed module or a dropped aggregate doesn't just feel like a bad day — it feels like a threat to your entire economic future.

“If we're serious about reversing the youth mental health crisis, we need to address economic and cultural conditions, not just screen time and parenting styles.” Dr Thomas Curran, Study Co-Author

Unsurprisingly, the study confirmed that perfectionism has rock-solid, stable links to depression and anxiety. When you believe that your worth as a human being is tied solely to your academic and career achievements, failure becomes a psychological catastrophe. In South Africa, where many students are the first in their families to attend university, the weight of generational expectations adds a heavy layer of socially prescribed perfectionism — the crippling belief that your community and family demand nothing less than flawlessness from you.

If you are building a career in today's cutthroat environment, here is how to protect your peace while pursuing your goals:

Redefine Failure as Data: In the working world, mistakes are inevitable. True career resilience isn't about never failing; it's about learning how to pivot. A mistake is just data telling you what didn't work.

Decouple Worth from Output: Cultivate hobbies, friendships, and identity markers that have absolutely nothing to do with productivity.

Practice Good Enough Progress: Perfectionism breeds procrastination because we are too scared to start something we might mess up. Give yourself permission to write a bad first draft, solve a problem imperfectly, and refine it later.



Reliability Code: The Hidden Bias in Graduates Recruitment

Source: University of Cape Town
Marketin and Communications Department



A short intro or kicker of the article will go here. This part acts as a bridge between the headline and the article itself.

Earning a tertiary qualification is a milestone meant to guarantee a fair shot at a corporate career. Yet, a landmark study co-led by the University of Cape Town (UCT) reveals that South African graduate hiring is heavily gatekept by an invisible barrier: relatability. Published in the *British Journal of Sociology*, the research co-authored by Professor Kurt April exposes how corporate recruitment frequently relies on a racialised cultural filter.

Rather than hiring purely on qualification, employers lean toward candidates who feel familiar or safe. This subjective process—termed homosocial reproduction—functions as a hidden mechanism of labour market exclusion, using cultural familiarity as a proxy for merit. With South Africa's youth unemployment rate staggering at 32.9%, addressing these demand-side barriers is critical.

To outmanoeuvre these subjective filters, entry-level job seekers must approach the hiring process with targeted strategies:

Decode the Environment: Research corporate structures and industry vocabularies early on. This bridges interpersonal comfort gaps during interviews while allowing you to preserve your identity. **Anchor in Competence:** Reframe interview dialogue around objective metrics. Use structured storytelling to showcase technical problem-solving,

forcing
recruiters to
focus on
skills before
subjective
organisational
fit takes
over.

**Own Your
Narrative:**
Frame your
unique
cultural
background
and lived
experiences
as evidence
of resilience,
adaptability,
and grit.

The Call for Corporate Reform

True equity cannot rest solely on the resilience of unemployed youth.

Corporate South Africa must reform its recruitment norms by standardising blind grading, prioritising objective competency metrics, and broadening the definition of professionalism. Until these institutional changes occur, graduates must recognise that recruitment bias is a systemic flaw, not a personal reflection of their capabilities.

"Corporate South Africa must reform its recruitment norms by standardising blind grading," Dr April



LATEST TRENDS IN BOGUS INTERVIEWS

Written by Lwazi Feni

Desperate South African youth are falling prey to highly sophisticated recruitment scams that promise a glamorous lifestyle but deliver financial ruin. Syndicates are now deploying fake corporate headhunters and fictitious talent agents who organize elaborate, bogus interviews at rented boardrooms.

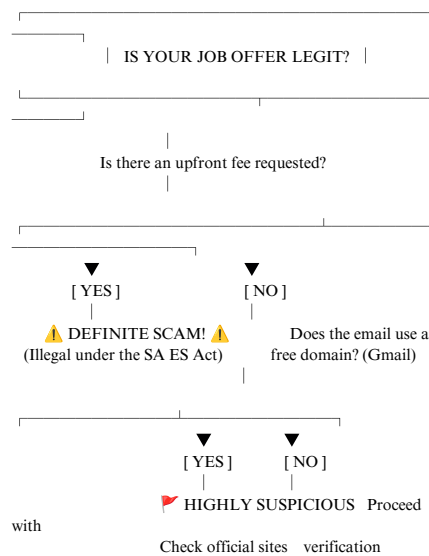
These criminals exploit the high national unemployment rate to target ambitious individuals who are eager to break into the entertainment, corporate, and education sectors. They build a false sense of security before requesting upfront payments for criminal checks, specialized training, or profile photography.

According to the South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC), reported job scams targeting young professionals increased by more than 30%. SABRIC notes that the emotional toll on these victims is often far more devastating than the

immediate financial loss.

Fake talent scouts are mimicking real enterprise structures to execute their malicious operations. Fraudsters meticulously copy official logos, draft convincing employment contracts, and even distribute fake press releases quoting legitimate South African recruitment experts out of context. To protect your professional reputation, you must perform deep due diligence on any unverified corporate outreach.

How To Spot Fraudulent Recruiting



Check official sites verification Criminal syndicates are also targeting the academic sector by fabricating lucrative government contract openings. The Department of Basic Education recently issued an urgent national warning debunking a widespread social media scam that advertised fraudulent "Phase 6 Teacher Assistant" positions for the current academic cycle. Safeguarding your personal data requires a proactive approach to verifying incoming career offers.



BMW Class of Tech Giants



By Rato Masilela
Photography by BMW Group

BMW cruising down the highway, what do you see? Slick wheels? A roaring engine? A stunning design? Now, ask yourself another question: Who do you think builds the digital brains behind those cars?

You might think the answers are found in massive tech labs in Germany or America. But here is a life-changing secret: the biggest technology hub for the BMW Group outside of Germany isn't in Europe. It is right here in Mzansi—in Menlyn, Pretoria! And the people running it? Thousands of young, brilliant South Africans who started out just like you, as learners. This year, the BMW Group IT Hub is celebrating 20 years of innovation.

What started back in 2006 as a small computer support center has exploded into a digital powerhouse of over 2,500 local tech professionals. These aren't just ordinary office workers—they are Software Developers, Data Scientists, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) creators. Every single day, their code runs the factory lines and digital systems for over 130 BMW locations across the globe. Sometimes, people say that a career in Mathematics or Science is just about sitting in a corner with a calculator and that's not true. Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are the ultimate tools to change your life, your family's life, and your country's economy. In 2026, the brilliant minds at the BMW IT Hub are projected to contribute a massive R4 billion to the South African economy. By choosing to study Tech, these young professionals didn't just find jobs—they created a massive wave of growth. They are designing the advanced software that builds cars on global assembly lines and creating the digital apps that international customers use daily.

They proved that South African youth have world-class talent. Now, it's time for you to prove it too. BMW is actively looking for raw talent, determination, and hunger to learn. They are building massive pipelines to help students from all walks of life get to the top. Look at what is possible for your future: The Outreach Programmes: BMW's tech outreach initiatives have already touched the lives of over 40,000 people, bringing skills and mentorship to communities just like yours.

CHATGPT **AI SHOPPING ASSISTANT**



AI Meal Shopping Hack

Student budgets are notoriously tight, but the new ChatGPT shopping feature is turning the financial struggle of tertiary life into a streamlined science. This tool serves as a digital procurement officer for students, replacing hours of tab-switching with a single, conversational interface that prioritizes value over marketing fluff.

How it works?

Instead of wandering through aisles or scrolling endless apps, students can input specific requirements—e.g. high-protein vegan meals for under R500 a week—and receive a curated list of ingredients with real-time price comparisons. The ability to upload a photo of a textbook or a specific health supplement to find the cheapest local stockist ensures that not a single cent is wasted.

By using the Agentic Commerce Protocol, the AI researches reviews and specs to ensure that a low price doesn't mean low quality. Whether you are sourcing bulk healthy snacks for a late-night study session or comparing the durability of laptop bags, the AI handles the heavy lifting of research.

Student life is about requires smarter strategies, and these intelligent shopping tools are the first step in saving you time and your bank balance.

Nutrition and
Food Recipes

Healthy Food

EAT WELL, FEEL GREAT!



Presented by

Neo Morokane

Why Healthy Food Matters



Keeps your body and brain working well

Prevents sickness

Whole Grains



Brown Rice

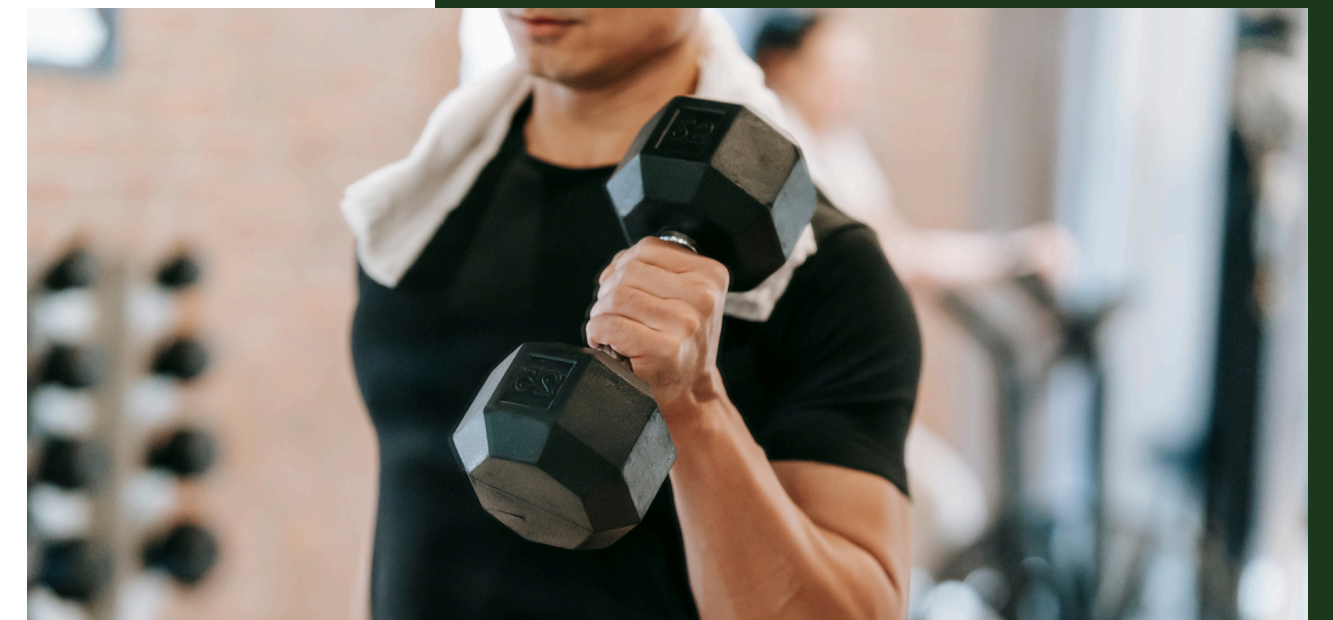


Whole Wheat Bread

Protein Power

Foods: eggs, chicken, beans, tofu, fish

Helps build muscles and keeps you strong





Milk, yogurt, cheese, or plant-based options

Good for bones and teeth

Dairy



Drink Water!

Water is the healthiest drink



What to Eat Less Of

Too much sugar, salt, and fried food



Healthy Habits

Eat colorful meals

Balance treats with healthy choices



Advertise on #IAmAnEducationChampion Magazine

Why You Should Advertise

- Enjoy connecting with over 20,000 learners and tertiary students across South Africa
- Introduce your brand through content you already have to our 2000 website subscribers
- We can write something completely new for you and distribute it via our online followers and website subscribers

*** Get Featured on the
#IAmAnEducationChampion
Podcast episode in 2026
We have a growing audience of
young people who are eager to
learn and grow in their chosen
career fields waiting to hear
from YOU**





A culture **built on innovation and growth** is key to attracting top talent.

RISING STARS CAREER EXPO 2026



Tembisa
Johannesburg



Umlazi Durban

28 July 2026

11-13 August 2026

Contact Details: 072 910 9378