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Page: 1

CHRISTEL HOUSE SOUTH AFRICA TECH FUSION HUB

Pushing the boundaries



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The learners at Christel House South Africa's (CHSA) Tech fusion hub are looking forward to testing their capabilities against the best whilst also learning more skills which can create more career pathways to empower themselves.

People's Post recently sat down with a pair of the talented young technological wizards, Muhammad Sabriqan and Jason Fisher, who are looking forward to mentoring the next generation of learners when they are in Matric next year.

Both learners are in Grade 11.

Last month, on Friday 14 August, the dynamic duo also represented the school at the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) Provincial Event held at the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

One of the school's teams achieved first place in the Senior category, automatically qualifying for the South African National event.

CHSA's Explorer Prime team also achieved an impressive third place and will also be competing at nationals.

For Muhammad, who achieved first place alongside teammate, Jason, robotics has been about much more than building and programming robots.

Five of the school's learners have also qualified for the Minecraft Build Battle and have been invited to represent the Western Cape at the Curro Clash Grand Final in Gauteng later this year.

Head of the school's Information Computer Technology (ICT) Cedrick Esterhuizen says he is proud to see how the hub's learners are flourishing as problem-solvers and it helps to empower them with various skills such as robotics, E-sports, Minecraft world building, 3D modelling, digital printing, video editing and learning how to operate drones.

"The idea behind doing all these activities is to expose our learners and give them opportunities to explore different activities during



The Tech fusion hub at Christel House South Africa is buzzing with activity from robotics, E-sports, Minecraft world building, 3D modelling and digital printing.

Five of the school's learners have also qualified for the Minecraft Build Battle

our extra-curricular programme, which we call Student Life. We want to see where their strengths lie. We have a fantastic E-sports team. In the Western Cape, we are the top Minecraft

Gold Battle team," he said. Esterhuizen also commends the pair for their dedication at last month's WRO.

"These competitions are about going to win, or going to learn. This year we went to learn, but it will be better for next year's competition. They are quite resilient. They push themselves, as you can see, they are busy preparing for their next event," he said.

They started preparing for this competition in February, when the new field and new map becomes available for the year.

"Then we spend most of our breaks, lunch

breaks, first breaks, and our Student Life time in the lab repairing and preparing. We also come in on Saturdays for about four hours just to prepare for these events," he said.

For Muhammad, from Manenberg, working with robotics went hand in hand with his passion for mathematics. "Robotics involves not just building, it is also math. I love math so much. Working with numbers is my thing. Out of all the clubs, robotics was probably the one with the most math and problem-solving, and that is the part I loved," he said.

TOP PAGE 4



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Page: 4

FROM PAGE 1

He hopes to pursue a career as a surgeon or venture into biomedical engineering.

Jason, who is from Hanover Park, said it was thrilling competing against the province's best robotics teams. "What really drew me into robotics is how there is a mixture of teamwork and creative thinking. I love designing and building. One of my dreams involves designing. Technology is a big thing for me. Usually Muhammad and I cycle

between building and coding. Usually, I do the building. In previous years, I did most of the building and Sabri did most of the coding. But this year we merged the roles, so we both did half the building and half the coding," he said. His dream career is architectural technology. "My advice for the youth is to do whatever you put your mind to. I would much rather regret what I did than what I didn't do. There are always opportunities out there. If you do your best, there will be something for you."



The robotics map and instructors to use when learners navigate the map with their robots. PHOTOS: KEANAN HARMSE