

Annual Report 2025

A Journey Twenty Years in the Making

Twenty years ago, Global Leadership Academy did not exist.

Twenty years ago, most of our current learners had not yet been born. Many of our parents had not yet met their spouses. Jeffreys Bay had no shopping malls. Many of our teachers were still learners themselves. And no one could have imagined a school called Global Leadership Academy.

Yet twenty years ago, the Lord set a plan in motion — a plan that would one day lead to the establishment of a school rooted in faith, leadership, and purpose.

This Annual Report reflects on **2025**, a year that forms part of a much bigger story — one of obedience, pilgrimage, and transformation. We invite you to journey with us through the heart, highlights, and milestones of Global Leadership Academy.

Our Origins: A Pilgrimage of Faith

In 2025, Global Leadership Academy celebrates its **sixteenth year of existence**, while also marking **twenty years of Global Challenge** — the organisation that birthed GLA as a step of faith in 2009.

To understand GLA, one must first understand its origins.

In 2006, ten young South Africans embarked on an eleven-month journey around the world with one purpose:

to seek the Lord, obey the Lord, serve the poor, and travel the nations.

They travelled light — stripped of comfort and certainty — relying fully on God’s provision. What began as a once-off pilgrimage soon became something far greater. Somewhere between the chicken buses of rural China and the crowded trains of India, **Global Challenge** was born: a vision to see young people live lives of courage, purpose, and surrender to Jesus.

Then came a defining question:

“Why not give school learners a similar experience — one that combines education, purpose, and adventure?”

That question gave birth to **Global Leadership Academy** in late 2009 — a school built on discipleship, faith, and the belief that education should shape both character and leadership.

One of the most beautiful reflections of this legacy is found in the Schulz family. Mr Thomas and Mrs Lynnette Schulz visited the very first Global Challenge team in Thailand in 2006. Twenty years later, their son, **Ian Schulz**, completed his schooling journey as a matriculant of Global Leadership Academy.

Only God could write such a story.

A School Shaped by Pilgrimage

From the earliest days, Global Challenge was shaped by words such as *Adventure Awaits*, *Life Like No Other*, and *God-Seeking Lifestyle*. Central to this journey was **Psalm 84:5**:

*“Blessed is the one whose strength is in You,
whose heart is set on pilgrimage.”*

This verse continues to shape the identity of Global Leadership Academy. Our journey is not random — it is a pilgrimage. A step-by-step walk of faith, often marked by uncertainty, yet anchored in the strength of the Lord.

Over the years, many have walked this pilgrimage with us — learners, parents, staff, and friends. Some joined for a season, others for more than a decade. Each has contributed to the growth and impact of GLA.

GLA and Global Challenge remain inseparable. We share the same heartbeat: **to make disciples and shape leaders**. And just as travel is a platform for discipleship within Global Challenge, so it remains a vital part of the GLA learning journey.

Travel, Faith, and Formation in 2025

Once again, **travel defined much of our year**.

Our **Grade 10 learners** embarked on **TravelSCHOOL**, a six-week pilgrimage across South America. They travelled over **28,000 kilometres**, crossed borders, served mission bases, and encountered faith and adventure firsthand.

The **IGNITE Youth Movement**, led by young leaders shaped through Global Challenge, gained strong momentum at GLA. IGNITE provides a weekly space for mentorship, discipleship, and authentic faith conversations. In 2025, the IGNITE team also undertook a mission trip to the rural Eastern Cape, supporting and serving a local mission base.

A select group of **twelve learners** participated in GLA’s first **Vision Tour to the United States**, made possible through our partnership with **RetailROI**. These learners presented entrepreneurial business ideas at the global headquarters of **New Balance** and **Burger King**, and were hosted at the **South African Consulate in Washington, D.C.**

Our **German Exchange Programme**, established in 2023, continued to grow. Ten learners travelled to Isfeld, Germany, collaborating with their partner school and leading community projects.

Closer to home, tours such as the **Tourism Tour, Cum Laude Tour, Drama Tour, and Afrikaans Language Tour** provided meaningful opportunities for learning, service, and character development. On the Afrikaans Tour, learners were challenged to pray for at least one person — in Afrikaans — before continuing their journey.

These moments, though small, shape the leaders of tomorrow.

Academic Excellence

The **Class of 2024** delivered outstanding academic results:

- **100% pass rate**
- **97% Bachelor's Pass Rate** — the highest in GLA's history
- **72 out of 74 learners** qualified for university studies

Subject averages were equally strong, including:

- Visual Arts – **83%**
- Dramatic Arts & IT – **79%**
- Accounting – **77%**
- Six additional subjects averaging above **70%**

The overall class average of **68%** reflects the commitment of both learners and teachers.

We celebrate **Zander Adlam**, who achieved a **93% average with eight distinctions**, earning recognition as the **Top Academic Achiever among independent schools in the Eastern Cape**, as well as a full bursary from the Department of Education to study Accounting at Stellenbosch University.

In total, the class achieved **116 distinctions**, with eight learners attaining A-averages above 80%.

Sport, Culture, and Campus Growth

On the sports field, GLA celebrated several historic milestones:

- Our **chess team** won the district league for the second consecutive year
- **Boys' and girls' hockey teams** were successfully established
- Our **rugby team** achieved a milestone victory over Nico Malan
- Netball and athletics teams recorded outstanding performances

Culturally, learners and staff produced “**Unshaken**”, an original stage production written, directed, and performed entirely by the GLA community — a powerful expression of faith, creativity, and courage.

Infrastructure development continued with the completion of new **drop-and-go and parking areas**, improving daily campus flow for parents and staff.

A significant step of faith was the introduction of **Technical Education**, with **Civil Technology** and **Electrical Technology** added to our academic offering. This expansion equips learners with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills for real-world application.

In a remarkable hands-on experience, **Grade 10 learners assisted in wiring and installing drywall frames** for six new technical classrooms, which will be occupied by the Technical Stream in 2026.

Community Award 2025

Each year, Global Leadership Academy presents a **Community Award** to an individual who has journeyed with us in a significant and meaningful way.

In 2025, we honour **Mr Ron Miles**.

Educated in technical subjects himself, Mr Miles built a business founded on skill, integrity, and entrepreneurship. His encouragement and belief in hands-on learning gave GLA the confidence to step into technical education.

Through his generosity, the first steps toward constructing our six new technical classrooms became possible.

Mr Miles’ life is a testament to how **technical skill, faith, and vision** can transform communities and build futures.

Looking Ahead

To every learner, parent, staff member, partner, and friend — thank you for walking this pilgrimage with us.

Whether you joined years ago or recently, your presence matters. As we look ahead, we invite you to continue walking with us — trusting the journey, embracing the challenges, and finding joy along the way.

When our strength is found in the Lord,
we can say with confidence:

This pilgrimage is blessed.