



Meet Damione De Bruin

ACT-SA

Paarl

Damione was born and raised in the beautiful Valley of Paarl, surrounded by magnificent mountains. He describes himself as a "safe haven" for young people. He strives to make progressive change in his community. He wants to show young people that circumstances don't define who you are.

What is your passion and inspiration?

I have always been a student at heart. My teacher was my inspiration. She saw my humbleness and the fact that I always helped people, so she encouraged me to apply for the Teacher Assistant post. Somehow, I was just drawn to helping others. My passion is psychology and counseling, which is what I'm planning on studying next year.

Why is it important for young people to serve their community?

I believe that it takes a village to raise a child. To show that in your community you can be a role model. Serving also shows the amount of value that a community has. I believe that something good can come out of my community. I want to be their hope, showing them that we are family. My child must be your child and we must help each other.

What advice do you have for future YeBo Academy students?

Now is the time to dream bigger than your imagination. Always give 100%, and remember you get what you put in. Giving up is not an option. Believe in yourself. For me, the YeBo Academy aligns with what I wanted to do. Make sure that's the case for you. For me, it's an opportunity to give back.

This interview was conducted and compiled by fellow YeBo Academy student, Ewardene Abrahams.

Class of 2023