



# THE DRIVE REPORT

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DECEMBER 2025



## DTI-A Visits Its First All-Boys SHS: Accra Academy

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MERRY  
*Christmas!*

12/25

Season Greetings from all  
of us at DTI-A

## Founder's End-of-Year Message



**NANA ADJOA HACKMAN**

As we come to the close of another remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and express our deepest gratitude.

This year, our mission to empower the youth, our next generation of leaders in Africa reached new heights.

We expanded our monthly outreach programmes, both online and in-person, growing the number of youth impacted by our initiatives to over 40,000. We have guided them through career choices, building their confidence, validating their dreams and having honest conversations about adolescent health and wellness.

On our scholarship programme for young women from underprivileged backgrounds, we started the year supporting 17 brilliant girls in tertiary institutions in Ghana. Today, that number has grown to 40. Forty future leaders, innovators, and changemakers who can now focus on their education, studying courses over periods ranging from four to six years, because you believed in them.

We also remained committed to turning potential into practice. Throughout the year, we facilitated internship opportunities—bridging the gap between education and real-world experience.

And perhaps one of our proudest milestones this year: Our mentorship programme also expanded its wings—from a local effort in Ghana to a continental network, now active in 12 countries across Africa, with a few mentors joining from the USA as well. This means more young people, across Africa, are finding guidance, support, and a community that believes in them.

None of this would have been possible without you.

To our dedicated team of volunteers—your passion is our engine.  
To our partners and sponsors—your trust fuels our impact.



To the schools, universities, and mentors across the continent (including those supporting from beyond the shores of Africa)—you are the bridges that help these young people cross over into their futures

And to the youth themselves—you are the reason we do this. Your courage and ambition inspire us every single day.

As we celebrate the festive season and look toward a new year, let's carry forward the spirit of empowerment, peace, and hope.

On behalf of everyone at Drive to Inspire - Africa, I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas filled with joy, and a Happy New Year brimming with promise and new beginnings.

Thank you for being part of this journey.  
Let's continue to rise, together in 2026



## 2025 Cohort 2 Mentorship Programme Report (September to November 2025)

The Drive to Inspire — Africa Mentorship Programme successfully concluded the second cohort of its 2025 cycle, following a three-month engagement period from September to November 2025. This cohort represents the fourth edition of the mentorship programme. The closing ceremony marked the formal conclusion of the cohort and provided an opportunity to reflect on participation, engagement, and programme impact.

Since its beginnings in Ghana, the mentorship programme has expanded across the continent, connecting young people across Africa with mentors both on the continent and beyond. What started with 20 participants in its earliest cohort has grown significantly. The 2025 Cohort 2 recorded 215 mentors and mentees actively engaged, demonstrating continued interest and growth in the programme. Participants in the 2025 Cohort 2 joined from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Botswana, Uganda, Liberia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Rwanda, Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the United States. This geographic diversity supported cross-border learning, peer exchange, and the development of networks that extend beyond national boundaries.

Throughout the cohort, mentees participated in structured mentorship engagements and monthly webinars focused on personal development, soft skills, and emotional intelligence. Participation levels remained strong, with mentees demonstrating consistency, curiosity, and active engagement. Feedback from participants highlighted improvements in self-awareness, communication, confidence, and clarity around personal and professional goals.

Mentors played a central role in the delivery of the programme, contributing time, experience, and guidance to support mentee development. Many mentors worked across multiple time zones, providing consistent support and creating safe environments for open dialogue, learning, and growth.

As part of the closing ceremony, selected mentors were recognised for exceptional commitment, including those nominated by their mentees for impact and time invested. A number of mentees were also acknowledged for their enthusiasm, participation, and determination throughout the programme, highlighting the importance of active engagement on both sides of the mentorship relationship.

The cohort concluded with a webinar on Emotional Intelligence, reinforcing the programme's emphasis on holistic development. The session explored key areas including self-regulation, empathy, motivation, and social skills, underscoring their relevance to leadership, collaboration, and long-term personal growth.

The conclusion of the 2025 Cohort 2 reflects DTI-A's continued commitment to creating mentorship platforms that support young people, particularly young women across Africa, by providing access to guidance, skills development, and supportive networks that enable growth and leadership.



## NextUp: A DTI-A Breakfast Meeting | February 2026



Drive to Inspire — Africa is pleased to announce NextUp: A DTI-A Breakfast Meeting, a youth-focused convening taking place on Wednesday, 4 February 2026, at the Accra International Conference Centre, on the sidelines of the Africa Prosperity Dialogues (APD) 2026.

NextUp is built on a simple but timely idea: Africa's youth are at the centre of the continent's economic future, and there is a growing need for spaces that expose young people to the realities, opportunities, and challenges shaping today's business and creative landscapes. As technology advances and creative industries expand, young professionals, aspiring founders, and students must be equipped not only with ambition, but with practical insight and access to those already building across these sectors.

The breakfast meeting will bring together young innovators, founders, operators, and creatives to explore how technology, digital infrastructure, and creativity are being used to build and scale ventures across Africa.

Through focused panel discussions and an intimate fireside chat, participants will hear directly from experienced founders and industry players on emerging technologies, the creative economy, cross-border trade, fundraising, and what it truly takes to build ventures that can grow sustainably.

Designed for young people aged 18–35, NextUp offers participants the opportunity to learn from real experiences, gain exposure to high-growth sectors, and connect with peers and professionals working across Africa's technology and creative ecosystems. The session also provides space for networking, idea exchange, and building relationships that can support future collaboration and growth.

Date: Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Time: 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Venue: Accra International Conference Centre, Accra, Ghana

Registration is now open. Visit [www.drivetoinspireafrica.org/event/nextup-youth-breakfast-meeting/](https://www.drivetoinspireafrica.org/event/nextup-youth-breakfast-meeting/) to secure your spot.

## 2025 Outreach Programme Concludes with Accra Academy Visit



We concluded our 2025 outreach programme with a visit to Accra Academy, marking our first engagement with an all-boys senior high school in Ghana. The session focused on over 1,200 Form 1 students who had just begun their secondary education journey.

At this early stage, many of the students had questions about their chosen programmes, subject combinations, and the pathways available to them. The outreach created space for open conversations, allowing students to engage directly with professionals, ask practical questions, and gain insight into a range of career options. These discussions helped students begin to think more clearly about the steps ahead and how their choices now can shape their future.

Beyond this final visit, 2025 was a strong year for the organisation's outreach work. Over the course of the year, we consistently visited two schools each month, and in some months,

three, reaching students across different communities. Each outreach session was designed to expose students to real-life experiences, professional journeys, and practical guidance to support their academic and career decisions.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the school authorities for their warm reception, with special thanks to Mr. Paul Kofi Yesu Dadzie, Assistant Headmaster (Admin), as well as the teachers and students of Accra Academy for their engagement throughout the session.

We are also deeply grateful to our volunteers, whose commitment and support continue to make this work possible. As we reflect on the impact made through our outreach efforts this year, we look forward to reaching even more students in 2026.













# NextUp:

## A DTI-A breakfast meeting

Theme:

**Leveraging technology, driving creativity and innovation to scale ventures in Africa**



**Accra International Conference Centre**, on the sidelines of Africa Prosperity Dialogues 2026



**Wednesday 4th February 2026**



**8 AM - 10.30 AM**

Register now at

<https://dtiabreakfast-apd2026.eventbrite.co.uk>



## Mentorship Programme Climax: Emotional Intelligence Webinar



To conclude the latest cycle of our mentorship programme, We hosted a virtual webinar on Emotional Intelligence, led by Bernard Selikem Dzakpasu, Manager, GRC & ESG Services at KPMG Ghana.

The session was designed to support mentees beyond technical and academic development by focusing on the personal and interpersonal skills required to grow as leaders, professionals, and change-makers. Emotional intelligence remains a critical foundation for effective leadership, collaboration, and decision-making, particularly in environments that demand resilience, adaptability, and strong human connection.

During the webinar, participants explored key components of emotional intelligence and how they apply in everyday life, not only in professional settings. The discussion covered the importance of self-regulation, helping participants understand how to stay composed and in control under pressure; empathy, which encourages a deeper understanding of others beyond surface interactions; motivation, highlighting the role of inner drive and personal discipline; and social skills, emphasising the value of building intentional and meaningful relationships.

The session provided practical insights and real-life context, allowing mentees to reflect on their personal growth journeys and how emotional intelligence influences leadership, teamwork, and long-term success.

We are grateful to Bernard Selikem Dzakpasu for sharing his expertise and to all participants who engaged actively throughout the session.



## Reflecting on the Year and Preparing for What Comes Next

As the year draws to a close, it offers young people an important opportunity to pause and reflect. In the rush to meet expectations, achieve milestones, and keep up with constant change, reflection is often overlooked. Yet taking time to look back is one of the most valuable steps in preparing for the year ahead.

Reflection allows young people to assess more than just outcomes. It creates space to consider lessons learned, skills developed, relationships built, and challenges faced. Not every goal set at the beginning of the year will have been achieved, and that is okay. Progress is rarely linear, and growth often happens in ways that are not immediately visible. What matters is recognising effort, resilience, and the willingness to keep moving forward despite setbacks.

It is important for young people not to be overly hard on themselves if plans did not unfold as expected. External circumstances, limited access to opportunities, and personal challenges can all influence outcomes. Missed goals do not mean failure; they provide insight. They highlight areas that may require new strategies, additional support, or simply more time. Self-compassion during reflection builds confidence and clarity rather than discouragement.

Looking ahead to the new year, reflection becomes the foundation for setting more intentional and realistic goals. The transition into a new year is not about starting over from scratch, but about building on what has already been learned. Goals should be guided by experience, aligned with personal values, and flexible enough to adapt as circumstances change. Small, consistent actions often create more impact than ambitious plans that lack structure or support.

As young people set goals for the coming year, it is equally important to focus on personal growth alongside achievements. Developing skills, strengthening networks, improving discipline, and nurturing wellbeing all contribute to long-term success. Success is not defined solely by titles or timelines, but by progress, learning, and the ability to remain committed to personal development.

As we step into the new year, we encourage young people to reflect with honesty, plan with intention, and move forward with confidence. Each year is part of a larger journey, and every experience, whether marked by success or challenge, plays a role in shaping the future.

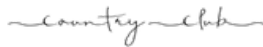
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