



Damian grew up on Eikendal wine farm with his mother and two sisters. He attended the Pebbles After School Club where he engaged in various extracurricular activities, it was the Math Initiative that led Damian to discover his love for numbers. The School Enrichment Programme (SEP) Math Initiative provides one-on-one and small group tutoring support to learners on specific math skills. Damian was awarded the top math student by the Pebbles math facilitator when he received 99% for one of his tests.

Damian always dreamed of becoming a teacher, but when the time came to select his subjects in Grade 10, he decided that he would like to pursue a career in finances instead. The Pebbles Project Social Workers took Damian to Boland College to assist him with his application to study Financial Management. However, when they arrived at the college, they were informed that there were no spaces left in the course. Damian felt disheartened: “They told me that the person in front of me had taken the last spot in the course. I was so upset. I made the decision to enrol for the Diploma in Assistant Management.”

One of the Pebbles Social Workers assisted Damian in obtaining an internship at KVV while he completed his studies. Damian graduated in 2020 and was offered an internship at Eikendal wine farm. Although Damian’s internship was administrative in nature, his manager soon noticed his passion for numbers, and asked him to assist in the finance department. Soon thereafter he was appointed as a creditor clerk.

“I am very proud of where I am today. I always thought that after I finished matric, I wouldn’t have the courage to study, but then I decided to shift my focus: to go after my dreams! I set a goal for myself and I went for it. I believe that it’s important to set goals for yourself and to follow your dreams.”

Damian encourages the younger children on the farm to follow their dreams: “I always try to assist where I can, I help them to complete online study applications. I want to help them to get a foot in the door, to not just sit at home without aspirations. I always tell them; the first two months will be tough, but that they should just keep going, it gets easier.”

“When I try to explain to people what Pebbles has done for me, I always tell them to look at Pebbles’ slogan: *Changing Lives*, because that is what they do, they change lives. Pebbles came into my life and I can honestly say that they have changed my life.”