

## THE THANDULWAZI SATURDAY SCHOOL



## Thandulwazi Trust

### MATHS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

*Thandulwazi* derives from the isiZulu, meaning “the love of learning”. The Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy, is an education programme run by the St Stithians Foundation. It was established in 2006 out of the need for effective action in addressing the critical issues pertaining to the teaching of Maths and Science in schools in and around Gauteng. Four main areas of focus have been identified by the Thandulwazi Maths and Science Academy:

(i) The *Thandulwazi Saturday School* aims at providing effective teaching in core subjects for pupils from previously disadvantaged communities. Sessions are held on 30 Saturdays during the academic year.

(ii) The *Thandulwazi-Rokunda Teacher Workshop Programme* focuses on up-skilling the teaching methodologies of teachers currently working in schools in previously disadvantaged areas; and providing professional development for these educators. The workshops are held on 11 Saturdays.

(iii) The *Thandulwazi Intern-Teacher Training Programme* is aimed at growing the number of professionally trained teachers in South Africa, particularly in areas of critical shortage such as Maths, Science, English and ECD/Foundation Phase.

(iv) The *Thandulwazi Learner Sponsorship Programme* provides bursaries for talented Maths/Science learners from previously disadvantaged communities.



The Saturday School was initiated in 1991 by Mrs Johanni la Vita, an Afrikaans Teacher at St Stithians Boys’ College, with a handful of students from local township schools. Over the last five years the project has grown enormously, with over 1000 students enrolling annually for classes at the Thandulwazi Saturday School. All the students are drawn from historically disadvantaged communities and the gender breakdown is approximately 70% girls and 30% boys.

Mr Mahlathi Zeph Khoza, a senior Maths Teacher at St Stithians Boys' College, was appointed as the coordinator of the **Thandulwazi Saturday School** in January 2011.

Lessons focus on Maths Core, Physical Science, Life Science, English and Accounting (Grade 12 only).

Sessions are held on 30 Saturdays during the academic year from 08:30-14:00. Formal class lessons are augmented by one-on-one tutoring/ small group tutorials.

Over the last four years, key changes were introduced to streamline the programme:

- The number of learners registered each year was restricted, to ensure that class sizes are limited
- Grade 10, 11 and 12 students who wish to learn and improve their results are entitled to register for classes at the Thandulwazi Saturday School, on the designated registration day, regardless of their level of achievement at school.
- Thandulwazi strives to ensure that discipline, courtesy and respect for one and all are the order of the day. Students are expected to abide by a Code of Conduct, which is explained to them at registration. Strict access controls and security measure are implemented so that students are able to learn in a safe environment.
- Classes are facilitated by professional SACE registered teachers. Teachers are assisted by tutors (undergraduate/ postgraduate university students studying towards a Maths/Science degree) in the classroom. Peer Tutors from St Stithians Girls' College (Gr 11 and Gr 12 students) also help learners in class on Saturdays.
- Learners received two hours of extra tuition in Maths every Saturday.
- An internet based Mathematics programme, *Mathletics*, has been introduced to assist learners. *Mathletics* is a self-study tool, developed in line with the national curriculum, and offers students the opportunity to practice mathematical concepts and examples/ problems on-line, either in the Saturday School computer labs or on PCs at home/ school.
- English is recognised as a gateway subject and is a compulsory subject for all learners attending the Thandulwazi Saturday School. Lessons focus on comprehension, literacy and questioning techniques.
- Two Careers Days are organised annually to assist learners to make vocational/ tertiary choices. The first targets the Matrics (held in March) and later in the year the focus is on the Gr 10 & 11 students.



## THE THANDULWAZI SATURDAY SCHOOL



### Contact Details

Physical address: 40 Peter Place,  
Lyme Park, Sandton

Private Bag 2, Randburg  
2125  
+27 (0) 11 577-6415  
+27 (0) 11 577-6478  
[thandulwazi@stithian.com](mailto:thandulwazi@stithian.com)

### Programme coordinators

Thandulwazi Saturday School  
Coordinator:  
Mr Mahlathi Zeph Khoza  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 577-6272  
Cell: 082-435-8500  
E-mail: [zkhoza@stithian.com](mailto:zkhoza@stithian.com)

Thandulwazi Director  
Dr Themba Mthethwa  
Tel: +27 (0) 11 577-6415  
E-mail: [thandulwazi@stithian.com](mailto:thandulwazi@stithian.com)

[www.thandulwazi.com](http://www.thandulwazi.com)