

THE THANDULWAZI- ROKUNDA TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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:

- The *Thandulwazi Saturday School* aims at providing effective teaching in core subjects for pupils from previously disadvantaged communities. Sessions are held on 27 Saturdays during the academic year.
- The *Thandulwazi-Rokunda Teacher Development 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.
- 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.
- The *Thandulwazi Learner Sponsorship Programme* provides bursaries for talented Maths/Science learners from previously disadvantaged communities.



Thandulwazi-Rokunda Teacher Development Programme

It is a truism that an education system is only as good as its teachers. The Thandulwazi-Rokunda teacher workshops focus on up-skilling the teaching methods of educators currently working in schools in previously disadvantaged areas and providing professional development for these teachers. This programme is co-ordinated by **Mrs Karen Walstra**, a highly experienced educator who has a passion for teacher training and technology.



***A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell,
where his influence stops.***

Henry Brooks Adams



Over the last five years the teacher development programme has grown enormously and in 2014 over 1000 teachers and principals registered for the workshops.

Workshops are held on 11 Saturdays during the academic year from 08:30-13:00. Sessions concentrate mainly on numeracy and literacy in the Foundation Phase; Maths, Science and Technology at the Intermediate and Senior Phases; and upgrading the computer skills of educators. Workshops are facilitated by highly experienced teachers, who are all experts in their field.

In 2011 *Mathletics* was introduced as a teaching tool for Maths teachers. *Mathletics* is an internet-based mathematics programme, which has been developed in line with the national curriculum. All teachers have access to *Mathletics* training at the Thandulwazi workshops and are able to access this system at home or school.

There is no charge to teachers attending the workshops. Donations and funding are sourced from corporate and individual donors to cover the costs of running the workshops.

All teachers receive:

- A flash-drive or file containing relevant information for the year (e.g. dates of workshops, curriculum documents).
- Teaching materials - worksheets, notes and other relevant teaching materials.
- Registration and log-ins for *Mathletics* for the year. This website may be used to learn and teach Mathematics; and is accessible to teachers both at Thandulwazi and off-site in their homes/ schools.
- Access to the Annual Company Display – at which school equipment, stationery, books, posters, games, tasks, equipment, excursion ideas, educational programmes offered to schools by companies etc, are on display.
- A Certificate of Attendance – participants will be issued with a certificate of attendance, indicating the workshops and Learning Areas attended by teachers, at the end of the year.
- Transport: buses from Soweto, Diepsloot, Alexandra, Tembisa and Ivory Park are provided for teachers who require transport to the workshops.

School principals are encouraged to attend Thandulwazi with their teachers. Leadership workshops are offered for Heads and aspirant school leaders on key leadership topics, such as budgeting; strategic planning; how to deal with bullying; leading with influence; setting up a school library; the principles of Investment in Excellence etc.



***Education is the most powerful weapon which you
can use to change the world.***

Nelson Mandela



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