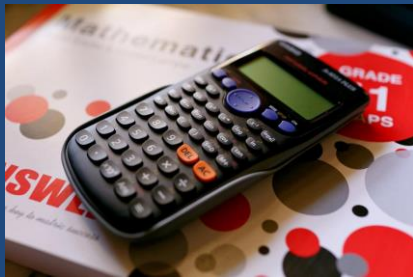


THE THANDULWAZI SATURDAY SCHOOL



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 established by the St Stithians Foundation. It was initiated in 2005 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 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.

(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 ten 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 programme director of the **Thandulwazi Saturday School** in January 2011.

Lessons focus on Mathematics Core, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, English and Accounting.

The Saturday School runs over 30 sessions during the academic year and classes are held from 08:30-14:00. Formal class lessons are augmented by one-on-one tutoring/ small group tutorials.

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





- The number of learners registered each year was restricted to 1100, to ensure that class sizes are limited
- Grade 9, 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 College (Gr 11 and Gr 12 students) also help learners in class on Saturdays.
- Learners receive 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. Students also have access to the internet-based programme, *Spellodrome*.
- A Careers Day is organized annually to assist learners to make vocational/ tertiary choices.



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