

THE THANDULWAZI - INTERN-TEACHER TRAINING 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 10 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 Intern-Teacher Training Programme

This programme is co-ordinated by [Mrs Thobeka Zuma-Mngambi](#), a highly experienced educator who has a passion for teacher training and Maths education. The intern-teacher training programme is hosted by St Stithians College.

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

Henry Brooks Adams

The College is a co-ordinate model, comprising a village of five schools on one campus, which caters for pupils across the phases, Foundation Phase to Further Education & Training (FET) Phase. The College has the personnel, skills and experience to develop and train potential educators thus making a difference to the educational sector in South Africa.

The Thandulwazi Interns study part-time for their chosen degrees, while undertaking on-the-job teacher training at St Stithians College. Interns have the opportunity to train in a well-run school environment; with superbly equipped classrooms and facilities; to work with highly trained and professional teachers (Meister teachers) and interact with learners, thus acquiring the skills and methods needed for effective teaching and classroom management. Interns experience a variety of teaching situations and methodologies during their training. It is anticipated that most interns will require approximately five years to complete the combination of formal (part-time) tertiary education and practical teacher training.

Mentorship is an integral feature of the Thandulwazi Programme and provides the intern with the professional support and assistance required to ease the critical transition from student to teacher. During the internship, a mentor is assigned to each intern. The former are specially trained, experienced teachers, based at St Stithians, who offer professional input, guidance and advice to each intern, thus ensuring that there is appropriate support on a personal basis for every intern.

In line with good practice, each candidate on the internship programme spends at least 70% of his/her time in the classroom. This is not as a replacement for a qualified teacher, but rather as an assistant teacher in the classroom. Once the candidate is competent in the classroom, he/she may teach in the classroom. The candidate does not take over a full-time teacher's timetable for the entire year but rather moves to a new area to develop strengths in another area.

Assessment is ongoing. Each mentor works on a daily basis with an intern and is required to complete an evaluation form every term on that intern. The intern coordinator makes classroom visits to observe the interns in action and has an individual meeting with each intern to discuss academic progress, and to ascertain if any academic support is required. University results are monitored by the intern co-ordinator who has access to the intern's online university portfolio.

After completion of their internship, the individuals concerned are encouraged to teach for a minimum period (on a year for year basis), at a school that primarily focuses on teaching learners from the group described as "previously disadvantaged South Africans".

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

Nelson Mandela



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