



## Independent Schools' Newsletter



Ms Cindy Thomas  
Senior Manager: E&A Unit

The Evaluation and Accreditation (E&A) unit is pleased to introduce the new Senior Manager, Ms Cindy Thomas, who has been appointed to this position with effect from January 2017. Congratulations to her for her much deserved promotion!

Prior to her appointment to this position in January 2017, Ms Cindy Thomas held the position of Team Leader of the full time team of evaluators and subject specialists at Umalusi from February to August 2014, and Manager of the Independent Schools' sub-unit from September 2014 until December 2016. In addition, Ms Thomas served Umalusi in the capacity of ad hoc evaluator, moderator and monitor between 2006 and 2012.

Ms Thomas has much experience in the independent schooling sector, having served as the principal of an independent school for 11 years. During that time she also served as the provincial representative for an association of independent schools. She has a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree specialising in Education Management, an Advanced Certificate in Education in Mathematics, and a Higher Diploma in Education.

### Independent Schools' Sub-unit update:

#### 1. QUALITY PROMOTION WORKSHOPS

The Independent Schools' sub-unit are conducting Quality Promotion Workshops (QP) across the nine (9) provinces in May 2017. Details of dates and venues can be obtained by contacting one of the following people: Kholofelo.Rabotho@umalusi.org.za / Dawie.Oberholster@umalusi.org.za / Mary.Malia@umalusi.org.za

The purpose of the QP workshops is to explain in detail what is required for the self-evaluation report and the site verification visit.

It is compulsory for independent schools offering programmes that prepare learners for the attainment of the National Senior Certificate and fall into one of the categories below to attend a quality promotion workshop before continuing with the process:

Independent schools that:

- 1.1 are not yet accredited by Umalusi;
- 1.2 are at an initial stage of the accreditation application process (are submitting or have submitted the letter of intent and must submit the self-evaluation report as the next step in the process);
- 1.3 have submitted their self-evaluation report but have not yet had a verification site visit by Umalusi and have not yet attended a QP in preparation for the site visit;
- 1.4 have gone through the entire process and have received an outcome of "no accreditation".

Attendance at a QP workshop MUST be confirmed at least a week in advance of the QP workshop. Numbers for attendance at QP meetings will be restricted, therefore "Walk-ins" without confirming a week in advance will not be allowed into the workshops. Payment per person attending the meeting must be made in advance of the meeting. The invoice will be available online once you have indicated the QP attendees.

#### 2. POLICY AND REGULATIONS

The previous issue of "Heartbeat" indicated that the Policy and Criteria for the Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Monitoring of Independent Schools and Private Assessment Bodies was under review. Further developments in this regard are as follows:

The comments that have been received and considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the amended policy and regulations. The amended policy and regulations were approved by Umalusi Council on 22 February 2017. The approved policy was gazetted on 7 April 2017 (Government Gazette no. 40772) and is available on the Umalusi website. The regulations have been submitted to the Minister for gazetting.

#### MAJOR CHANGES:

| ORIGINAL POLICY   | AMENDED POLICY  |
|---|---|
| Accreditation – 7 years   | Accreditation – once off, with provision for withdrawal of accreditation  |
| Provisional accreditation for independent schools – 1 year                        | Provisional accreditation for independent schools – 2 years   |
| Biennial monitoring   | Monitoring (differentiated)   |
| Registration of an independent school directly linked to accreditation by Umalusi | Registration of an independent school is not linked to accreditation by Umalusi – registration is a decision of the provincial Head of Education Department. However, schools which offer the National Curriculum Statement leading to the National Senior Certificate must apply for accreditation within one year of registration by the Provincial Education Department. |

### 3. TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND SACE (SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATORS) REGISTRATION

The requirements regarding professional qualifications and SACE registration of teachers has been amended with regard to provisional accreditation of a school.

3.1 For a school to be granted accreditation, the requirement is:

- a) At least 80% of the teachers teaching subjects within the CAPS curriculum must hold a professional teaching qualification and current registration with SACE.
- b) The principal of the school must hold a professional teaching qualification and current registration with SACE.

3.2 For a school to be granted provisional accreditation, the requirement for this indicator is:

- a) At least 70% of the teachers must hold a professional teaching qualification or a three-year academic qualification in the field in which they are teaching and hold current registration with SACE. (This will include student teachers who are in their fourth year of study towards a Bachelor of Education degree.)
- b) For schools which offer Grades 12, the Grades 12 National Senior Certificate pass rate is at least 80%.
- c) If, at the end of the provisional accreditation period, the school can show that the academically qualified teachers are making considerable progress towards becoming professionally qualified, and it is the only indicator the school still has to meet, the provisional accreditation period may be extended.

### Congratulations to the following independent schools which were granted accreditation over the period September 2015 - May 2016

| Name of School                          | Province | Grades accredited |
|---|----------|-------------------|
| Abbotts College Silver Lakes            | GP       | 10-12             |
| Ashton International Benoni             | GP       | 10-12             |
| Birdsview Academy                       | KZN      | 8-12              |
| Cannons Creek                           | WC       | 1-12              |
| Crawford College La Lucia               | KZN      | 8-12              |
| Curro Bankenveld School                 | MP       | 1-12              |
| Curro Mossel Bay                        | WC       | 1-12              |
| Deutsche Schule Durban                  | KZN      | 1-7               |
| Gereformeerde Skool Johannes Calvyn     | GP       | 1-7               |
| Grayston Preparatory School             | GP       | 1-7               |
| Helderberg Primary School               | WC       | 1-7               |
| Hermitage House                         | EC       | 1-7               |
| Hillcrest Primary                       | WC       | 1-7               |
| Hilton College                          | KZN      | 8-12              |
| Holy Cross Convent Primary              | WC       | 1-7               |
| Inanda Seminary                         | KZN      | 8-12              |
| Jubilate Primary School                 | GP       | 1-7               |
| Khanyisa Education Centre Limpopo       | LP       | 1-12              |
| King David Victory Park - High School   | GP       | 8-12              |
| Laerskool Nanaga Primary                | EC       | 1-3               |
| Lebone II College of the Royal Bafokeng | NW       | 1-12              |
| Michaelhouse                            | KZN      | 8-12              |
| Noble Palms Primary School              | NW       | 1-7               |
| Rüens Kollege                           | WC       | 1-7               |
| Sagewood Combined School                | GP       | 1-7               |
| Shangri La                              | GP       | 1-12              |
| Springfield Convent                     | WC       | 1-12              |
| St Columbas                             | GP       | 1-7               |
| St Conrad's College                     | NW       | 1-12              |
| St Dominics College – Welkom            | FS       | 1-12              |
| St Henry's Marist School                | KZN      | 1-12              |
| St John's College                       | GP       | 1-12              |
| The Ridge                               | GP       | 1-7               |
| TNJ van der Walt Kollege                | NC       | 1-7               |
| Tyger Valley College                    | GP       | 1-12              |
| Vaal Triangle Primary School            | GP       | 1-7               |
| Vineyard Christian School               | GP       | 1-7               |
| Waterkloof House Preparatory School     | GP       | 1-7               |
| Zakariyyah Muslim School                | GP       | 1-12              |