



Newsletter June 2018 edition

Dear Power of 1000 Donor,

A warm welcome to our June 2018 edition of the Power of 1000 newsletter, in this issue we focus solely on an important part of our mandate: to improve learner performance and opportunity at Lenz High.

Lenz High continues to be a high performing school in its education district. In 2017, its matric pass rate was **92%**. Roughly half (45.29%) of its matric candidates achieved bachelor passes, a third (35%) attained diploma passes, a fifth (19%) obtained higher certificates. Unfortunately 8% or 15 members of the Class of 2017 did not pass.

In our quarterly meeting with Principal Munshi in early May 2018, we discovered that eight learners from the Class of 2018 are severely underperforming and are at risk of failing the National Senior Certificate. We conducted a focus group discussion with the learners on the 15th May 2018. They requested additional academic support in Life Sciences, Maths Literacy and Geography.

Historically, Lenz High conducts **Blitz Sessions** before prelims and final exams in the following high risk learning areas: physical science and mathematics core, maths literacy and geography. Blitz Sessions are 'high impact' 3 hour lectures on 'the big topics' conducted by a 'good teacher' from another school.

The Power of 1000 decided to pilot an academic support intervention for the Lenz High Class of 2018 in Life Sciences, Maths Literacy and Geography. We modelled it on the Blitz Session, instead of it being run by teachers, we wanted the learners to engage with Lenz Alumni working in these fields. We conducted four Blitz Sessions, and we gained significant insights on the model and on our role in supporting the Class of 2018. Here is a comment from one of the learners who attended the first Maths Literacy Blitz Session:

"We covered topics that I did not understand. I picked up all the silly mistakes I make and now know where I go wrong. I really understood it now"

In conducting four 'Blitz Sessions' we have learnt that:

1. Learners want additional academic support. They attended in large numbers.
2. Our model is impactful when done with learners who are severely underperforming – it allows for individual attention.
3. Our model is not suitable for revision sessions – not for large numbers of learners.
4. We have to work closely with the learning area teacher in identifying curriculum topics that require extra-class attention.
5. Our model has drawn the attention of the league of Lenz High Alumni who want to provide academic support to current learners.



The conclusion that the Power of 1000 has drawn from these lessons is that academic interventions during the matric year is too late; it is difficult to redress cumulative learning deficits. We believe that our efforts in learner performance should begin with the incoming 2019 Grade 8 learners and identify students that require personal attention to see them through the high school years.

We have committed to provide support to the eight learners who require special attention in a more holistic approach to improve their mind set and confidence.

The success of any initiative is penned down to the close collaboration between the Power of 1000 team and the School Management Team as we work towards one goal, seeing Lenz High groom leaders of the future, in this regard a further discussion with Ms Munshi and the team is planned to take the initiative forward.

We want to thank Mayur Maganlal (the Acting Governance and Support Officer and Deputy City Manager at City of Tshwane), Imran Patel (Deputy Director General at the Department of Science and Technology) and Shamima Vawda (Senior Researcher at Systems Approach) for volunteering their time to pilot the Power of 1000 Matric Support Model and to share their wealth of experience and knowledge with the Class of 2018.

We would like to enlist your help in spreading the word of Power of 1000 and get people to contact the team to donate and to be a part of this exciting journey as we have several initiatives planned for the rest of 2018.

Follow all the happenings of 'Power of 1000' on Twitter at [powerof1000](https://twitter.com/powerof1000) , Face book www.facebook.com/powerof1000 or Visit our website www.powerof1000.co.za. Join the Whatsapp group to get updates by contacting one of the following numbers 0741011837/ 0815068643.

We welcome feedback so please drop us an email at info@powerof1000.co.za

On behalf of all of us at Power of 1000, thank you again for allowing us the opportunity to participate in this community initiative.

Best wishes and warm regards,



Mohamed Imraan Sayed

Chairman