



➤ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Secondary School Teaching

Name: Ms Natasha Smith
School: Apex High School, Eerste River
District: Metro East Education District

Ms Natasha Smith demonstrates a palpable passion for teaching and learning. As an educator, emphasis is placed on the development of her learners' skills and knowledge in practice. Ms Smith daily seeks to explore opportunities that have impacted the learners' knowledge, progress and resulted in tremendous improvement in their performance. Their confidence to tackle activities, in a respectful and technological environment, has placed them at an advantage that can only result in future success.

In the realm of education, Ms Smith stands out as an exemplar of meticulous planning and strategic execution in every task she undertakes. Her approach to organising and orchestrating various activities is nothing short of impressive. With an innate understanding of the significance of proper preparation, she consistently demonstrates a level of detail-oriented planning that ensures no facet of the task at hand is left to chance.

Notably, her exceptional teaching methodology is enhanced by skilful incorporation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

into her daily lessons. Recognising the transformative power of technology in modern education, Ms Smith adeptly integrates these tools to engage, enrich, and elevate the learning experience for her learners. Such deliberate integration of ICTs into the learning experience, reflects her commitment to equipping learners with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing, digital world.

One of the cornerstones of her pedagogical approach is the three-pronged strategy she employs, "I DO - WE DO - YOU DO". This approach embodies a seamless transition from direct instruction to collaborative learning and finally to independent application of acquired knowledge. Through scaffolding her lessons in this manner, she fosters a deep sense of interconnectedness between herself and her learners. This interconnectedness not only facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter but also nurtures a sense of shared progress and achievement within her sphere of influence.

A noteworthy attribute of Natasha is her unwavering commitment to her



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learners. She wholeheartedly dedicates herself to the growth and development of each individual under her guidance. This commitment goes beyond mere academic pursuits; she recognises the importance of nurturing the holistic development of her learners. As a mentor and guide, she takes on the responsibility of shaping not only their cognitive abilities but also their character, values, and interpersonal skills.

What truly sets her apart is the infectious enthusiasm and excitement that she brings into her teaching. Every lesson becomes an opportunity to ignite curiosity and passion within her learners. Her dynamic presentation style, coupled with her genuine passion for the subject matter, captivates the attention and interest of her learners. This remarkable blend of energy and knowledge turns each learning session into an engaging experience, fostering an environment where exploration and inquiry flourish.

Her interactions with her learners are

marked by a harmonious blend of authority and approachability. The rapport she establishes is rooted in mutual respect and understanding, allowing her to guide and mentor effectively while also encouraging open dialogue. This unique ability to balance authority with empathy embodies the very essence of an excellent teacher - one who is both a source of knowledge and a source of inspiration.

In summary, Ms Natasha Smith is not just a teacher but an embodiment of educational excellence. Her meticulous planning, innovative incorporation of technology, strategic pedagogical approach, unwavering commitment, enthusiasm, and skilful interaction collectively paint a portrait of an educator who goes above and beyond to shape the minds and futures of those entrusted to her care. Her influence extends beyond the classroom, leaving an indelible mark on the educational journey of every learner fortunate enough to be under her tutelage.



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