



TEACH! CONFERENCE 2025

Proudly brought to to you by Kingswood College

Theme:

Educational Excellence

Friday 29 August – Sunday 31 August 2025

Kingswood College, Makhanda (Grahamstown)

Kingswood College is proud to host our tenth biennial TEACH! Conference. Through the Teach! Conference we hope to reinvigorate the teaching profession. The topics for 2025 are focused on Educational Excellence.



It is a great privilege to welcome you to Kingswood College for our TEACH Conference – a gathering that celebrates the heart of what we do: teaching, learning, and inspiring young minds. This conference continues to go from strength to strength and has become a space for teachers to be inspired, to collaborate, and to connect.

Our theme this year centres on educational excellence – a reminder that every lesson we plan, every interaction we have, and every moment we spend developing our craft has the potential to shape the trajectory of a child's life. Excellence in education is not about perfection; it is about the consistent pursuit of better – better methods, better understanding, better outcomes – so that every child in our care has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We have brought together an exceptional group of speakers from diverse fields in an effort to ensure that our goal of empowering teachers is realised. Great teachers are not born; they are developed through reflection, collaboration, mentorship, and continued professional growth. This conference is about equipping ourselves with the knowledge,

tools, and confidence to meet the evolving needs of our learners – and to do so with creativity, compassion, and purpose.

But just as importantly, TEACH is about building communities of practice. Teaching can be a deeply rewarding but sometimes isolating profession. This space is designed for connection – where ideas are exchanged, stories are shared, challenges are explored, and new partnerships are formed. In coming together as a professional learning community, we strengthen not only our individual capabilities but also the collective wisdom and impact of our profession.

May this conference leave you inspired, informed, and encouraged. Let us honour our shared commitment to education and recommit ourselves to the vital mission of teaching with excellence, purpose, and heart.

Welcome to TEACH. Welcome to Kingswood. Let the learning begin.

Leon Grové
College Head



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

12h00	Registration and Lunch
13h30	Welcome: Leon Grove (Kingswood College Head)
13h45	Keynote 1: Lester Lalla
14h45	Tea & Exhibitors
15h30	Keynote 2: Sue Tasker
16h30	Keynote 3: Joe Orsmond
17h30	Drinks and Networking at the Wyvern, followed by supper

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST

08h15	Keynote 4 – Sally James
09h15	Keynote 5 – Wayne Hugo
10h15	Tea
11h00	Keynote 6 – Bruce Brown
12h00	Keynote 7 – Thapelo Masemola
13h00	Lunch & Exhibitors
14h00	Breakaway sessions: What does educational excellence look like in your school? Sharing inspirational stories. Prep School - Wyvern: Carissa Wilson High Schools - HPC: Leon Grove
15h15 - 16h00	Tea & Exhibitors
16h00-17h00	Keynote 8 - Greg Theron
17h00	Drinks and Networking at the Wyvern, followed by supper

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

08h15	Keynote 9 - Pam Tudin
09h15	Keynote 10 - Gillian Arendse
10h15	Wrap up followed by Conference Closure - Tracy Van Molendorff
10h30	Tea Buses to depart for Gqeberha at 11h30

**29TH
AUG
13H45**



LESTER LALLA, “THE PRESERVATION OF FIRE”

Lester Lalla is the headmaster of St John's Preparatory School in Houghton Estate, Johannesburg. He is interested in fostering strong school communities through evidence-based practices, ritual, and relationships. Currently, Lester serves as the Vice Chair for Africa on the board of the International Boys' Schools Coalition (IBSC).



29TH
AUG
15H30



SUE TASKER, “WHO GETS TO DEFINE WHAT EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IS; AND HAVE WE BEEN ‘CAPTURED’ BY COMPETITIVE PARENTS, SUPER SPORT AND TECHNOLOGY?”

Sue Tasker qualified with a BSC (HDE) in genetics and botany and started her teaching career at Carter High School in Pietermaritzburg in 1992. From there, she joined St Stithians Girls' College for 9 years, where she was a Grade Director and Head of Life Sciences. Her main extra-curricular activities during this time were hockey and rowing. Sue was Deputy Head at St Andrew's School for Girls in Bedfordview for 6 years, with her role focussing mainly on student affairs, discipline and boarding, and later included academics. She is now in her 14th year as Principal of The Wykeham Collegiate in Pietermaritzburg (her Alma Mata).





JOE ORSMOND, “DOUBT, GROWTH, AND THE CASE FOR SLOW, SIMPLE LEARNING”

Joe Orsmond is certain of very little. He loves his two daughters, unconditionally. Surfing makes him happy. Trying to convince a trout to take a well-presented fly is a day well spent. Reading makes him a better human being. He writes because he is compelled to. He is also certain that all biographical blurbs sound contrived and pretentious (including this one).

Educationally, he heads the English Department of St. Andrew's College and the Diocesan School for Girls. He has presented on teaching and writing at local, national, and international conferences (but this means nothing in comparison to his devotion to the art of writing). He also believes, in totality, that an educational revolution is brewing. More importantly, he wants in on this.



30TH
AUG
08H15



SALLY JAMES, “IS EXCELLENCE REALLY EXCELLENCE?”

Dr Sally James is currently the head of St Stithians Girls' College, located in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sally describes herself as a passionate and progressive educator where she sees it as mission critical that students are prepared for the social and economic realities of our time and how best to cope with the uncertainties of an unknown future. Sally notes that as educators “what we do matters forever”. A relevant and strong education sets the foundation every young person requires to be agents of change in our global context. Sally has worked within the Independent School movement for 20 years and has also lectured at the Wits School of Education. Sally has a PhD in Education from Rhodes University. Her particular areas of interest include professional teacher development and collaborative learning communities, education and leadership of young women, diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice work, and educational and community upliftment.



**30TH
AUG
09H15**



WAYNE HUGO, ‘TEACHING EXCELLENCE IN FOUR DIMENSIONS: HUMAN–HUMAN, HUMAN–AI, AI–HUMAN, AND AI–AI INTERACTIONS’

Wayne Hugo is interested in how education has been, is, and can be used as a weapon for good in the world.

This session explores four modes of teaching and learning—human > human, human > AI, AI > human, and AI > AI—with a focus on practical strategies that classroom teachers can adopt. In the human > human setting, excellence depends on ongoing, two-way feedback. Teachers ask probing questions, observe student responses, and adjust explanations immediately. Each correction becomes a chance to deepen understanding and build rapport. By modelling clear explanations and listening attentively, teachers create a classroom culture where misunderstandings guide instruction rather than impede it. When humans > AI, teachers take on the role of curriculum designers for intelligent tools. Excellence here requires selecting representative, unbiased datasets and defining clear objectives for AI models. For example, when training a language-learning app, teachers must decide which vocabulary and grammar examples best reflect their students' needs. They then review AI outputs, identify unexpected patterns or gaps, and iterate on the training process. In doing so, teachers shape AI behaviours that can later surface insights, such as novel ways to sequence practice exercises, that feed back into classroom practice.



30TH
AUG
11H00



BRUCE BROWN, “FINDING THE UNKNOWN IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE”

Bruce Brown is an Associate Professor at Rhodes University, whose main interest is in teaching thinking in STEM and in Mathematics. His initial qualification was in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and he worked in scientific computing before moving to Rhodes University. There he taught Mathematics (Pure and Applied) and studied the psychology of learning to deepen his insight into learning Mathematical thinking. He worked in teacher professional development for a number of years before taking up his current position in the Rhodes university Education faculty. He is currently involved in initiatives to deepen STEM engagement and mathematical thinking in Primary School learners and pre-service teachers.





THAPELO MASEMOLO, “CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT - IDENTITY, PURPOSE & COMMUNITY”

The Rev'd Fr Thapelo Masemola is an Anglican priest in the Church of Southern Africa, formed in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. He currently serves as Chaplain of St John's College, Johannesburg, where he brings his deep theological insight and pastoral care to the spiritual and moral formation of students and staff alike.

Fr Masemola holds academic degrees in Philosophy and in Theology and is recognised for his contributions to liturgical theology, ecological ethics, and the role of the Church in public life. He has recently presented at the historic Ecumenical Conference for the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in Assisi, where his paper on Liturgical Participation and the Sacrifice of Creation, was received with high regard. His work reflects a vision of the Church as both guardian of tradition and prophetic voice in the world.

At the heart of his educational philosophy lies the inspirational imperative of St Eugene de Mazenod; 'Our primary duty is to teach them to act like human beings, then to teach them to be good Christians and then to help them to become saints.' A passionate preacher and thoughtful educator, Fr Masemola is committed to shaping the next generation of leaders who will serve God "rightly trained in body, mind, and character," both in Church and in State.



30TH
AUG
16H15



GREG THERON, “ZEN AND THE ART OF ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - WHAT NOW?”

Greg is passionate about partnering pupils in their search for meaning in an increasingly complex world. By guiding them towards a path to self awareness and the ability to deal with what they find there gives them hope for the future and agency to deal with it.

He has taught in and led many schools and is presently Rector of Cornwall Hill College



**31ST
AUG
08H15**



PAM TUDIN, “CHARACTER EDUCATION VALUES IN LANGUAGE TEACHING: WHY AND HOW?”

Pam Tudin-Buchalter is both a Clinical Psychologist and Forensic Psychologist. She is also a Leadership Development Consultant, International speaker, Parenting Coach and most importantly mother of two boys, aged 16 and 18.

Pam's latest venture is as the co-founder of KLIKD, a company aimed at growing good digital humans. Together with her business partner, Sarah Hoffman she has developed THE KLIKD DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME – a comprehensive digital skills syllabus for schools that helps teens and tweens (and their parents and teachers) to use social media safely, smartly and happily.

While her forensic practice keeps her firmly on her toes (and sometimes on her knees), Pam is a highly regarded national and international speaker where she speaks mainly to the various 21st Century challenges facing eye-rolling teens and their depleted parents.

In her private practice, Pam's main passion lies in helping all kids go from good to great as they navigate the bumpy online and offline landscapes.

Pam is also the co-author of “Your Teen Unleashed!” – a book that offers refreshing answers to all the tough questions we are always afraid to ask out loud.



**31ST
AUG
09H15**



GILLIAN ARENDSE, “EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE”

Gillian is an experimental nuclear physicist (by training) with a PhD (Experimental Nuclear Physics, 1997 – Stellenbosch University), motivator (by choice and conviction), and a general all-rounder committed to use his gifts and talents to impact the lives of every person with whom he interacts. His passion to leave people better than he found them is fuelled by a need to be challenged on a daily basis. He is currently employed by the NRF-iThemba LABS as Manager: Communication and Stakeholder Relations; a position he took up on 1 July 2020.



