



**Report to the Department of Education**

**Intel Teach Essentials – July 2009**

**ESTCOURT SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The school is in a deep rural area, about 30 km from Estcourt on the Ntabamhlope Road. It is well maintained and the learners and educators seem to be happy and well disciplined.

The school has a new (April 2009) networked lab with 25 new computers all loaded with Windows XP and Microsoft Office 2003. In addition there is a laptop, a Smart Board and a data projector. There does not appear to be any software loaded for the Smart Board and there was only a trial version of Office on the laptop, borrowed from a staff member, which expired during the training. There is no Internet connection at the school. However, the Encarta Premium suite was present.

The lab was provided by the DoE and this training was sanctioned by Dr Thami Nkabinde, who spent parts of 2 days of the training at the school.

There is no ICT technician or teacher, but one of the participants is the school's ICT "Champion" and there are three CAT teachers at the school who help with the technical work.

Educators were unable to save on the network owing to password problems, and saved work on the desktops of the individual machines.

Eighteen educators attended the course two of whom attended only three days instead of four days.

The participants consisted of those members of staff who are considered to have good computer skills. This included the Principal, Deputy and a number of HODs. Not all participants had skills which were adequate, especially when it came to saving into folders and file management. However, most were pedagogically sound and had a good understanding of the necessity of developing well designed projects.

The training took place over 4 official days at the beginning of school. Staff were informed at the opening Staff meeting that some staff had been selected and classes would be doubled so that they could attend the training.

This worked really well on the first day, but thereafter, it became a problem as marks and reports were due that week, and so staff were called out to complete their school work on the second day. This seriously disrupted the training schedule and meant that the trainer had to repeat some sections several times. However, it also meant that participants had more individual attention and worked really hard on their Project Plans.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days, attendance was more settled and the trainer dealt with some of the big concepts.

Project plans were well designed and questions were based on the selected Assessment Standards. Assessment tools and strategies were good, and Learner samples were good in some cases. Not all projects were completed but some were emailed to the training on the following week.

### Compiled Course Evaluations

		Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
1	I am a confident computer user		1	9	7
2	I referred to the tip sheets in the Resources folder		2	12	3
3	The tip sheets helped me to complete the tasks		1	13	2
4	The facilitator supported me when I needed help			7	10
5	I enjoyed working in groups.			8	9
6	I was able to learn from my peers in group sessions			8	9
8	I learnt more from the whole-class feedback sessions		2	8	7
9	I had no understanding of projects integrating ICT before the workshop.		4	8	5
10	The workshops helped to increase my understanding of projects integrating ICT			11	6
11	I learnt new perspective on assessment			14	3
12	I learnt new things about questioning			13	4
13	I learnt new things about learner support			14	3
14	I used the resources on the CD during the course			15	2

15	I used the course manual more than the CD				
16	I found the course manual useful				
17	I have a clear idea of how to implement my project			<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
18	I plan to implement my project in my classroom as a result of this course			<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>
19	I will use the online thinking tools in my project				
20	I will recommend this course to colleagues			<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>

**General comments from trainees:**

- It was a wonderful course which helped in understanding how the project is done and how useful ICT is.
- It was very fun and beneficial working with you Mam we hope will meet again, I learned a lot.
- The course was very interesting, educational, well planned and the facilitation was conducted very well.
- I had no understanding about the ICT but I have learned more and also the workshop was much organised.

**Highlights from Trainees**

- Presentation about our projects was a very interesting part of our learning.

**DIFFICULTIES**

- The time was short
- There were not much difficulties except that it is difficult to find the matching assessment standard for my project ,but finally I got it right
- I had some difficulties but Mrs Dee (the trainer) helped me back on my feet.

**ASSESSMENTS**

Seventeen Intel portfolios were assessed as and they were awarded Completion, Bronze and Silver certificates.

Completion	Bronze	Silver	incomplete
6	5	2	4



**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The trainer should take a modem with so as to at least show the participants Web 2 tools. According to the trainer working in a school while learners are present has great disadvantages as far as consistent attendance goes, but having teachers from the same school working together meant that they inspired each other and the trainer is sure that many of these projects will be implemented this year.

**CONCLUSION:**

It was reported that the end of the course, staff were challenged to continue working on their projects and implement them. The Principal, Mr. Vilakazi, undertook to follow this up during the term. Staff seemed to have a good understanding of the concept of project based learning and were looking at opportunities rather than difficulties.

The school is ready to embark on **Intel Thinking with Technology** which is the course that focuses on integrating Online Thinking Tools into classroom projects.