



*Independent Quality Assurance Agency*

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Mr M Barclay  
Principal  
Elsen Academy  
21 Bird Street  
Central  
Port Elizabeth  
6001

4 May 2017

Dear Mr Barclay

### **IQAA EVALUATION OF ELSEN ACADEMY 2017**

**Elsen Academy is making an incredible difference in the lives of the children and they are certainly meeting their Mission statement.  
Cilla Crankshaw, IQAA mentor.**

I have read the relevant documents and reports pertaining to the evaluation of Elsen Academy. Collectively they portray a vibrant, happy and productive learning environment that, in its relatively short life of just eleven years, upholds a reputation for sound educational standards. It is indeed very heartening to consider how the school has developed since its founder, Phillipa Fabbri and colleagues, opened the school in 2006. The school's website is most appealing and contains several delightful features such as quotations from students and parents, and the video clips of the overview of the school and the 'Wacky Staff'!

It is pleasing to note that on the whole you received very positive feedback from the Opinion Surveys. This is a clear indication that the key stakeholders in the school are committed to its welfare and sustainability. The Evaluation Team has done well to effectively collate the salient points arising from the surveys, class visits and focus

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**Directors:**

Samuel Isaacs (Chairman)  
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· Anne Oberholzer · Mark Potterton · Confidence Dikgole  
Michael Hosty (Executive Director)  
Lynne Rivett-Carnac (Mentor Representative)

groups and is also commended for the succinct compilation and editing of the final Report. It is very encouraging to see that due attention has been given to the recommendations in the Cycle 1 Report, and the extent to which issues have been addressed and innovations introduced is most pleasing indeed. Inevitably certain challenges persist, such as bullying and the extra-curricular programme, but they have been included in the strategic planning that emanates from this evaluation

None of the Areas of Concern highlighted in the Report present insurmountable challenges to the management of the school. The time frames and the delegation of responsibilities listed in the Strategic Plan appear realistic, and it is encouraging to see that several tasks are already in the process of being addressed. Your school can feel very heartened by the summary of Major Strengths in the report, in that it reflects the core purpose of any school – the provision of quality teaching and learning. You do have much to celebrate and I wish to congratulate Elsen Academy on a most positive evaluation. Your school offers your children a meaningful education, creating a solid platform for their futures. I trust you are inspired as you reflect on past and present accomplishments, and future challenges. As the school becomes more established, it will surely be most inspiring to document and share the career paths of your past pupils. In years to come this fraternity can be a source of meaningful moral and material support.

Thank you for the warm hospitality extended to our mentors, Cilla Crankshaw and Anne Irwin, who were very mindful of your support and professionalism. We appreciate the competent manner in which the evaluation team undertook this demanding process. You may proudly share this report, and my concluding comments, with your school community. A certificate confirming the completion of this evaluation will be sent to you in due course, together with an IQAA logo to display on your website and promotional material.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hosty



**MICHAEL HOSTY**

Executive Director

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