



May 2024 - Stutterheim High School, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Mrs Angela Finch from Byrchall High School represented PiXL International in delivering a second conference at Stutterheim High School for 20 schools in the Amathole West District and the Buffalo City District of the Eastern Cape in South Africa. The schools ranged from small remote schools with limited facilities and staff, to very large secondary schools. The 26 staff were from a range of roles which included Education District Officers, Principals, Vice- Principals and English teachers. Mrs Finch shared approaches and resources that are used with pupils at Byrchall High School, as the school is a member of the PiXL Club. (Partners in Excellence)



This project continues to be planned and delivered in collaboration with officials from the Eastern Cape Education Department; Mr. Mongezi Mncono is a Circuit Manager for Amathole West and Mrs Gabisile Mncono, is an English Subject Adviser for the Buffalo City District. By working in collaboration, it in enables the project to continue to develop and be supported throughout the year by leaders in South Africa.

The conference was opened by Mr Mncono explaining the purpose and the expectations for the day, and the ongoing commitment. He shared his experience of working with Byrchall High School previously and the impact this had on the teaching and learning in his last school at Smiling Valley. He had shared the ideas from the first conference with all the schools he is responsible for. This conference would enable the attendees to look in more detail at those strategies.

Schools in the Eastern Cape who attended the first conference in 2023 shared how they had used the PiXL strategies and it had helped them to improve outcomes for their pupils in the National Secondary Certificate.

Ms O Mazwi, who is a Head of Department for English and Deputy Head at Berlin High School, was invited to explain how she had attended the first conference in May 2023. She shared how she had used some of the PiXL strategies with her classes, and the success she had in the National Secondary Certificate in English.

“In June 2023 I had some of the worst results of my career of around 60%. In December 2023 I achieved 100%. Some of the best practices were practices that I gained from the first PiXL Conference, such as target setting and monitoring targets. “

“We are now required to do a diagnostic report and a SIP. If I had not been here last year I would not be as advanced in target setting and SIP development.”

The focus of the conference was on looking in more detail at the PiXL strategies that can support improving results for individuals, subjects and at whole school level. The session started by delivering an explanation of the different PiXL strategies, showing how they can be used and the rigour that is needed to bring about improvements. Examples were given of how they have been employed in schools in the PiXL Club.

These included:

- Target/Goal setting- with specific targets for subjects for improvement and for individual pupils
- Using assessment information for Diagnosis, Therapy and Testing (DTT)
- Personal learning Checklists (PLCs)
- Marginal Gains- identifying key students and supporting them to make the improvements
- Feed Forward- looking at key information on past papers, examiner reports, key content, how to answer exam questions and information from your own internal assessments
- Walking Talking Mocks and how to plan for improving retention, application and how to revise



The staff then worked together to explore these strategies and how they could use them in their own school or subject. The staff were currently marking the mock papers for Year 12 and they planned how they could use the information and the PiXL strategies to prepare for the Year 12 public examinations in December.



The PiXL strategies that can be used were demonstrated by the use of resources for the teaching of English from the PiXL website and from Byrchall High School. The staff were given resources and templates they could use immediately in their own school and the understanding of how to create their own approaches and resources.

The conference concluded with Mr Mongezi Mncono and Mrs Gabisile Mncono explaining how the PiXL strategies they had heard about would support them in the new requirements from the Eastern Cape Education Department of producing Diagnostic Reports and Subject Improvement Plans. Mrs Mncono is setting up an on-line group for the attendees so that there can be remote input from England and the staff in South Africa can collaborate and share resources.

