



Deutsche Internationale Schule Kapstadt (German International School Cape Town) opens state of the art science facilities

In 2009 the German Government offered German schools abroad assistance in developing their science facilities. After submitting a detailed application, the German International School received funding for the equipment of its four science rooms. Other parts of the funding were provided by the Ohlthaver Trust, the parents' representative committee and the trustees of the school. The total investment exceeded 3 million Rand.

The objective of the complete revamp of the science departments was to provide a modern teaching environment for the learners of the DSK, which would enable pupils' participation in experiments and practical work. Group work is encouraged and now easily possible in these rooms. Access to the latest technology makes the learning experience a lasting one.

The practical side of teaching Physical Science, Chemistry and Biology is especially important at the DSK, because of the diversity of its pupils.

The German School, known as the DSK, centrally located on the foot of Lions Head, was founded in 1883. Besides being subsidised by the German government it is a South African co-ed school, accredited by the Education Department of the Western Cape. It offers its learners a bilingual education of high standard and the opportunity to learn the German language up to mother tongue level, but also to become bilingual in English and German.

Since 1981 the DSK has been open to learners of all sectors of society, Non German speaking students can enter the school in grade 5. Intensive German lessons are part of the

curriculum and the children usually adapt very quickly. All students will then be able to pass the South African NSC and optionally the German Abitur exams. This is done in one combined examination, recognised by both the South African and the German Governments. This is made possible through a unique treaty between the two governments. Being equipped with the Abitur or a German language diploma offers the school leavers the great opportunity to study in a European country as well as here in South Africa. The total number of South African learners at the DSK is 461, which represents 63 percent of the total number of pupils.

The diverse origin of the pupils exposes the children to various cultures and social backgrounds, allowing them to develop a great social competence. The dedicated team of teachers is equally varied. German and non German speaking South Africans successfully interact and exchange with short and long term seconded teaching staff from Germany.

The new Science laboratories allow the school to continually add to the standard of education in the Western Cape. At least 37 recent DSK matriculates are currently studying at UCT in the departments of Engineering, Health and Sciences. The school hopes to be able to provide a growing number of students in these fields.

To achieve this, the DSK is opening an additional class for English-speaking learners from Grade 5. Entry exams for the next group of learners, who are now in Grade 4, will take place Saturdays, 21 August 2010 and 18 September 2010.

For further information please visit www.dsk.co.za.

Hermann Battenberg

Principal

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