

# **A South African university has developed a teaching method that improves maths and science marks in SA schools.**

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Press Release

## **SA University invention solves the problem of poor maths marks in schools.**

An educational project, devised by the Govan Mbeki Mathematics Development Centre within Nelson Mandela University in PE, has shown to improve matric maths and science marks by up to 30%.

The project revolves around a unique and innovative device, called the GammaTutor, which helps teachers and students alike with teaching and learning. Unlike other tuition programmes, this project has been designed specifically for use in South African schools, most particularly poor, rural and township schools that battle with poor infrastructure and lack of teaching support.

The GammaTutor can be used by teachers, learners and home-schoolers. It contains the entire high school curriculum for maths and science, presented in animated Power Point presentations, videos, and tutorials. It is completely self-contained: it needs no internet; it is directed at non-English speakers; it requires no expensive equipment; and it has a vast range of support services for both teachers and learners.

The GammaTutor can be used on its own, or it can form part of various accelerated-tuition programmes. It has been piloted extensively in Eastern Cape schools, where it performed beyond expectations. It is now available to schools, learners and parents across the whole country.

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For further information, please contact Niki Moore at 031 – 205-8331 or 071 – 932-8925 or reply to this mail.

Fact sheet on the GammaTutor:

- \* It is designed specifically to be used in poor and rural public schools, to overcome the socio-economic challenges that beset our education systems.
- \* It is flexible enough to be used by learners as study aids, as well as by teachers to help them plan their lessons.

- \* It is not dependent on the internet, so connectivity and data costs are not an issue.
- \* It does not need complex or expensive equipment – simply a screen and a mouse. An inexpensive overhead projector is more than adequate.
- \* Simple video tutorials, simulations and PowerPoint presentations explain the CAPS-aligned school curriculum from Grades 8 to 12;
- \* A built-in glossary translates and explains concepts in any of seven indigenous languages;
- \* Interactive curriculum-aligned tests give results as well as explaining the solutions;
- \* Videos demonstrate and discuss science experiments for schools with under-equipped science laboratories;
- \* Past exam papers are presented with solutions and explanations;
- \* An emulation of a CASIO maths calculator is included for self-teaching.
- \* The programme is suitable for both individual learners or groups;
- \* Teachers are guided by curriculum-aligned animated PowerPoint and video lessons;
- \* Where the programmes have been used in schools, marks have improved in many cases by more than 30%.
- \* Teachers can use the programme to prepare and present high-quality and standardised lessons;
- \* Study groups can use the programmes for Saturday schools;
- \* Learners can use it for help with homework;
- \* Home-schoolers can use it as a personal tutor;
- \* Student teachers can use it as on-the-job training.

The Centre has piloted the programme in selected schools in the Eastern Cape, where marks have increased by up to 30%. It is noteworthy that the Eastern Cape province had the highest increase in matric marks in 2019 – an increase of 5.9%.

Demonstrations of the programme and the device have been put on Youtube.