



## Letter to All School Governing Bodies

### The Responsibility of a Governing Body

The Thinking Tools approach positions your school to achieve higher standards, placing learners on a trajectory for lifelong success. This transformation is made possible by teachers, who are the school's most valuable asset. Their mindset and the quality of their teaching define the institution. From this perspective, the question for a governing body is not "Can we afford to train them?" but rather, "Can we afford not to invest in their training and development?"

### What Does the Thinking Tools Strategy Entail?

We recognize that the weakest link in a school striving to stand out as a center of excellence is often learners' ability to learn effectively. The key to overcoming this challenge lies in empowering teachers. Equipping educators with the expertise to guide learners in purposeful and effective learning is the only way to navigate the curriculum successfully and enhance learner outcomes.

### What Are the Benefits?

#### For Teachers:

- **Efficiency over Effort:** Thinking Tools equips educators with strategies to teach smarter, not harder. This results in a staff with high morale who can see the tangible impact of their work, reflected in improved learner performance.
- **Proactive over Reactive:** This approach enables teachers to address challenges before exams, rather than after, when it may be too late.

#### For Learners:

- **Deeper Insights and Faster Learning:** Learners develop skills that enable them to learn more quickly and achieve better grades, fostering motivation, resilience, and emotional intelligence. They become critical thinkers and problem solvers.
- **Development of Brain Pathways:** Every learning experience creates new layers of neural connections that build upon prior knowledge, establishing a foundation for future learning. This process, known as the myelination of neural pathways, plays a crucial role in neuroplasticity—the brain's ability to reorganize information and embrace new learning experiences.
- **Upward Learning Spirals:** These upward spirals replace repetitive, horizontal layers of memorized information, enabling learners to continuously develop new strategies that promote creativity and problem-solving skills.

#### For the School:

- **Leadership in the School Community:** The school builds a reputation for innovation, preparing learners for a rapidly changing world, and is recognized as a center of excellence.

### The Thinking Tools School Concept

To further your school's success, we have developed the "Thinking Tools School" concept, which actively involves parents as partners in education while leveraging the expertise of the Thinking Tools specialist teaching team.

Over the past two years, we have offered Thinking Tools courses for learners from Grade 4 to Grade 12. These courses include four monthly mathematics Thinking Tools classes, recorded for future use. Each grade thus gains access to a minimum of 40 one-hour classes valued at R12,000, along with an equivalent number of classes from the previous grade, totaling a value of R24,000—available for a subscription of just R97.50 per month.

When combined with the option of a free mathematics internship for teachers, led by specialist educators, the potential for your school to become a world-class center of excellence is limitless.

Currently, the United States and other countries using STEM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics) curricula are taking note of the brain-based learning insights emerging from South Africa. You can read more in this article from STEM Magazine: [STEM Magazine January 2025 Edition](#).

Warm regards,

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