



Independent Quality Assurance Agency

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Mr J Kruger
Blue Hills College
16 Village Road
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Midrand

22 August 2018

Dear Mr Kruger

IQAA EVALUATION OF BLUE HILLS COLLEGE 2018

“This is a busy school and the overriding tone is one of students taking maximum benefit from the opportunities they are given at Blue Hills College. The church-based ethos is evident throughout the school and the current values and moral character of the school is defined by this.” – Lesley MacIntyre, Mentor.

I have read all the relevant documents and reports pertaining to the evaluation of Blue Hills College and am left with the impression of a relatively new independent schools which provides a good education to an important section of South African society as well as some neighbouring states, and does it well. From its foundation in 1996 the school has grown to 564 students and 30 teachers and will certainly grow more when the new primary school is established. The report talks of well-disciplined students with a positive attitude to learning and 80% Bachelor passes in the NSC. The introduction of a good house system and committees run by students will prove very valuable in developing well-rounded young people. All of this is ample testimony to its value in the community.

The problems documented in the report are frankly identified and it was no surprise to read that the school has challenges with communications, ways and means of meeting the needs of students of different abilities, and that the ever-present problem of bullying needs constant watching. All of these issues feature in almost every school report that is sent to IQAA. May I suggest that as you search for solutions you may find it very valuable to consult with other schools as to how they cope with them.

The list of recommendations at the end of the report are sufficiently detailed to be really useful, and I wish you well as you seek to accomplish them. I was particularly pleased to see that Staff Development and Staff Team Building feature in the recommendations. As I am sure you are all too well aware, a good school relies on good teachers and money spent on

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developing teacher competence and teacher satisfaction is always money well spent. The finding in the report that teachers should be helped and encouraged to use the wonderful world of technology more creatively could be an important feature of both the development and the satisfaction index.

Thank you for your kind comment that, *'The IQAA process is the heartbeat of functional schools.'* We certainly think so! May I suggest that you consider retaining the team that you have used for this evaluation and ask them to regroup annually. They can initially be tasked with critically reviewing progress with these recommendations in a year's time. In the subsequent years, before your next IQAA evaluation, they can be encouraged to identify a distinctive area in the school each year that needs scrutiny and run a relatively minor evaluation process of their choice, but using the skills they learnt through this full evaluation, with the aim of ultimately informing school management around that issue. Ideally you would aim for topics that are quietly nagging you in the back of your mind.

Thank you very much for the kind hospitality extended to our mentor, Lesley MacIntyre, who reports very favourably on her experience at Blue Hills College. Thank you also to Mr Donga, your team leader. We are fully aware of how exacting leading an IQAA evaluation can be, and how much time it entails

You may proudly share your report, and my concluding comments, with whomever you choose in your school community. A certificate confirming the successful 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.

Kind regards

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