**Thuto – School B**

1. **Which topics do you teach in Life Orientation that prepare or may prepare Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

Emmmm…We have development of self in society, career choices and study skills. So Most of this topics they correlate because you have to be developed, you have to be motivated, you have to be focused and goal orientated…. Nd say you know what I want to study and I want to pass…. So when you are focused you be able to study. I tell my learners that you need to have the relevant study skills that will assist you to prepare for your tests and examinations, the strategies one can use include strategies and skills such as mind mapping, concentration strategies, note taking, memorizing

Examples of skills may include…. are you a visual learner , are you kinesthetic and you may use any skills that works for you. Learners are informed that you may use different study skills or strategies for different subjects because some subjects are theory and others are practical. You just focus and work on your capabilities.

In Career and career choices – mostly before like before COVID, our specialists from the district will be there and we used to have career exhibitions where we invite people from Universities in Pretoria and all over to come to the school to speak with our learners….they teach them the importance of points….. and expose them to various career options. They tell them about the importance of passing and balancing the subjects. Like if a learner wants to do Nursing , obviously English is important at level 6 or more …..subject like Life Sciences is also important ….. The people or exhibitors also make them realise that they have to balance the subjects for them to access university. They tell them….and we also tell them in class.

In addition, we explain to them in class to say for example, we have Higher certificate pass, Diploma pass and Bachelor pass. And you know with Bachelor pass, they are able to access University. Like in Higher certificate pass, they need to pass two languages at 40 , LO and other 3 content subjects with 30. For They know like for them to pass Grade 12, for example they need for example for Higher certificate pass, they need to pass with 30 in all 3 content subjects and at least 40 in the Language. In Diploma , they need to pass two languages and other 3 content subjects with 40.

For them to get their Bachelor pass , they need about 50 and above in 3 or more content subjects, also in LO and in two Languages. Because they do 7 subjects , so in case they fail one of their content, then LO assist them to pass if they managed to pass it. So LO do contributes to the learners passing Grade 12. The only challenge we have is that LO does not count in the points for them to go to University …but you know we tell them that the points may not count but we encourage them to pass it because if they pass it ..it contributes to them passing their Grade 12. In addition, it may assist them to have the life skills that are needed for them to be able to secure employment. If they pass and do not pass well , we also encourage them to go to upgrade so that they accumulate the points needed to access the University.

In some instance…like we know our learners, those that we see that they do not have the potential to go to University we encourage them to go to TVET Colleges because it is not like if you study at a TVET you do not succeed …..because yoh there are learners who I see that they upgrade every year , get the same results and it is so painfull, they need to know their potential…like is not everyone who can be able to go to varsity. I tell them and I see they listen…some are even studying at the nearby TVET college. I am happy with that.

In development of self in society they learn how to manage their stress, how to relate with their friends , how to relate with their parents and so on. They also learn problem solving and time management. You see LO is important

1. **What is your understanding of the word “support” in context of preparing learners for transition to tertiary education?**

Hmmmm hence I started , when you write , our personalities differs, when you worry a lot or panic a lot during exam---you end up not having time management and not focusing on what you are studying. That anxiety will have an impact because you focus too much on it rather than having a study time table, study plan that you may use to pass. So for those types of learners, we encourage them, we teach them and motivate them by giving them the relaxation skills…This is how we support them during tests and examinations.

And also neh, for example ….Not long ago we gave the learners reports for June and we had interventions, we did not only focus on those who did not pass….we also told those who passed to look at their reports and check if there is a balance in their subject marks , like if a learner have a level 7 in one subject and a level 3 in another subject…we encourage them to make sure that they balance those marks in the coming term. And those who did not make it we made them aware that , it is not like they fail because they do not have the potential or they are not smart, they do have the potential, they are just playful….for example , we discovered that those who fail become absent once or twice in a week ….this was just to make them aware that it is not late for them to improve and pass. Because not long they will be writing their preparatory examination.

The other thing is that we tell them that for their final examination, they do not have enough breaks in between subjects so they need to plan better, so that they may have enough preparation for all the subjects. They need to prepare well in advance.

And again, here in school we are working as one team… We are one team…we work together to achieve the goal we set for ourselves. In school we support each other in supporting the learners, we have HODs, we have the Specialists to support us and the learners and also the EAs that we have these days. They assist us to make copies of the material and as a results they assist in reducing the pressure we had as teachers. The pressure is less.

1. **How do you currently support Grade 12 learners to prepare for the transition to tertiary education?**

Ehhhh To be honest , I started now doing revision with them...from term 1 work. I provide them with notes from the LO specialist, I share previous question papers. I highlighted the most questions that are mostly asked in examinations. I tell them that they need to read questions carefully, for example when you are asked to explain--- they must explain , when they are asked to discuss – they must discuss and not just write without understanding. So it means I give them tips on how to study for the prep examination and final examination…I tell them the structure of the question paper and make them aware that they need to prepare well for them to pass Grade 12.

1. **What role do you play in supporting Grade 12 learners for smooth transition to tertiary education?**

I teach them , I also motivate them and guide them to study for the examinations because they need to pass Grade 12 for them to go to University. I tell them the importance of passing with good marks. And I think they are ready.

1. **What support strategies are you currently using to prepare Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

I think I have already shared but to add on that ….

They have notes..I gave them notes to use for studying for examination

I also make them aware that when you apply…you have to apply for three careers or study options. I teach them that sometimes they also need to be willing to compromise and not find themselves upgrading for many years… they can decide to go to the study at a College for a certificate and or diploma or something unlike upgrading for many years.

And again, when we look at our backgrounds, sometimes you have this bursary, then again maybe a job. For example, when we look at our backgrounds, when you are a first born or bread winner, I make them realise that you can work and study at the same time. You can look at your situation and then check if it allows.

Yoh we support them these learners, the school sometimes call in the prophets to the school to speak with the learners about spiritual matters…this is because our learners have issues. They need to be supported emotionally. They need to know how to deal with challenges of life they encounter.

1. **Share any other support strategies that may be useful in preparing Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

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There are a number of strategies, like involving the subject specialist. The specialist guide and tell us where we can take our learners for career exhibitions. But for now since COVID – there are no career exhibitions but Universities like North West University do come to the school to share with the learners the information about admission requirements and APS scores.

1. **Which aspects/factors do you think can assist Grade 12 learners to transition to tertiary education?**

I make them aware that they have to pass their Grade 12…good marks count and also by balancing of subjects. I tell them to focus also on content subjects. Because if there is no balance --- you may not access or study the qualification you want. And you know they usually have that question in the examination, where they are asked to write the advantages and disadvantages of transition. For example, in school they wear school uniform—they are in unison…they do not have pressure of clothes. I tell them that they have to adjust at university , because at University they wear their own clothes, they buy their own lunch and they are responsible for their own transportation….unlike here because they have food at school during lunch break and the government offer them scholar transport as you see this bus outside

I think this question is important because in school learners study comfortably for 12 years and all of a sudden they must go to University to study for 3 years or more. So they need to become independent . You know I tell them that it is so nice to be independent because you can be able to do things for yourself…. it therefore reduces stress, workload and everything.

And I also make them realize that when they go to tertiary, they are going to study their specialities…because there you choose. That is why it becomes easier. If you want to specialize in Geography, or you want to be a geologist that becomes your main focus. And I also make them realise that there …there is a difference between teachers and Lecturers. they have to know that there you are being lecturered…you see…some of the things there are assignments. When you go to University you need to know how to read and write. You will have to do things by yourself. You will need to go to your book, read it , understand it and make your notes. For example , during COVID everything was done online, so if affected many kids….you see….especially those who were not self- actualized and focused …they struggled a lot. For example at University when you are given a task ….you cannot wait and say I was not taught this or that , you are expected to know how to read and write. So Lecturers are just there to guide you. So I tell my learners to be prepared… to be independent…to do things on their own.

1. **Which aspects/factors do you think can be the barriers for Grade 12 learners to transition to tertiary education?**

The affordability of their parents…but you see now there is NSFAS that they can use it to study. But obviously if you do not pass you will not be able to study at University or College.

1. **Is there anything else that you think I should know relating to the support and preparation of Grade 12 learners for tertiary education?**

Life orientation is….you see Life aker….we teach them about things tsa life in general. Then orientation – you have to be orientated….. Generally speaking Life Orientation is a nice subject….hence I say I so wish it had points that contribute to admission at University because only challenge we have as Life Orientation teachers is that we find ourselves motivating learners a lot. Because it is very exhausting to do a subject that is there on the matric certificate but does not have points. ….that demoralizes the learners. I think if it can be included in the points , it can serve as a source of motivation for the learners. So eish, as a Life Orientation teacher, I find myself motivating learners a lot so that they can see the importance of Life Orientation…so that they can pass.

And what I love about Life Orientation ,is that it teaches you as a person or learner. I always make them aware that it does not mean that I am perfect as a teacher but you must learn to practice what you preach. For example , the last topic that I teach is about work ethics. And I make them realize that those ethics do not apply only at work…you start at using them here at school, by being presentable and neat.