



Provincial Winner

Excellence in Secondary School Teaching

Name: Fiona Blanchard

School: Crystal Secondary School, Hanover Park

District: Metro Central

With a remarkable teaching career spanning 34 years, Ms Fiona Blanchard has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to transforming the lives of learners at her school, within the broader Hanover Park community. Her classroom is not just a space for learning but a sanctuary where creativity, empathy, and hope converge to empower young minds facing daily challenges rooted in poverty, inequality, and violence.

Fiona's innovative teaching methods have not only addressed academic goals but have also nurtured critical life skills, resilience, and leadership among her learners. Her flagship initiative, *Heroes of Hanover Park*, stands as a beacon of hope—amplifying learner voices and celebrating local stories of triumph in a community often stifled by systemic barriers.

Her introduction of Peace Ambassadors into the school ecosystem is a testament to her

forward-thinking approach to education as a vehicle for social change. These ambassadors play a vital role in conflict resolution, promoting peaceful dialogue, and restoring dignity in an environment where trauma and unrest are all too common.

Fiona's tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. Her work is endorsed and affirmed by the Provincial Schools Evaluation Authority, further solidifying her reputation as a practitioner of excellence, resilience, and hope.

Through every lesson taught and every life touched, Fiona Blanchard exemplifies what it means to teach with vision, courage, and compassion. She is a true architect of possibility for the learners of Hanover Park, making her a most deserving recipient of this national honour.

Provincial National Teaching Awards (NTA) 2025



**Western Cape
Government**
FOR YOU