



NATURAL SCIENCES_ SENIOR PHASE

TO: Education Officials and Teachers

TOPIC: BUILDING BACK BETTER IN EDUCATION AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MESSAGE OBJECTIVE(S):

After a crisis ends, the hope is to be able to return to our schools, more than anything, to return to a better education.

MESSAGE:

Lessons learnt during the pandemic

1. Smaller class sizes:

Smaller number of learners in class meant that the teacher was more focused on individual support, learners had more chances to express themselves and ask questions. Assessments and feedback were prompt.

2. More engaging instruction:

Teaching through presentations and learner self-research allowed greater participation. Lessons became organised in a more engaging learner centred way. Projects, e-learning, use of digital media and individual research meant that learners developed new skills, knowledge and interests through interactive classes which eliminated passivity and contributed to improving students' concentration and motivation.

3. Grades and knowledge:

The pressure to get high grades only makes the process of mastering skills and knowledge more difficult. Grades are not always a measure of knowledge. They are not always realistic and do not show whether we have really mastered the material. The most important thing is to understand what one is learning and to be able to apply it later in life. Hence it has become important to focus more on **Assessment for Learning** rather than **Assessment of Learning**.

4. More practical teaching:

Less **Tests** and more **Practice**. The current tests and writing assignments don't completely test what we know. They usually only test how much we can memorize certain information, which we more often forget shortly after. Learners are more likely to recall something better when they learn practically. Practical learning and practice allow them to apply the theories and more opportunities to experience theory in practice leading to acquisition of new skills and expansion of knowledge.

NECT DIGITAL PLATFORMS:

- ✓ Gr 12 learner support:
<https://www.wozamatrics.co.za>
- ✓ Gr r-11 learner support:
<https://www.tswelopele.org.za>

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