



# Xolani Senior Secondary School Annual Matric Revision Camp

*Demonstrating Our Commitment to Excellence*

As part of our commitment to assisting our learners, Xolani Senior Secondary School has begun providing Matric Revision Camps each year for all Grade 12 learners. The learners along with our dedicated faculty spend 6 weeks living at school (sleeping and eating in designated classrooms) to prepare for the National Senior Certificate Examinations. Here is some information about our camps and how they help our learners succeed.

## About the Camps

When is the camp?

Xolani Senior Secondary School's formal Grade 12 Matric Revision Camp will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016 and conclude on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2016. The 2016 camp will be our second annual sleep-over camp.

How long is the camp?

The total duration of the Grade 12 Camp 2016 will be 7 weeks.

Who participates in the camp?

The camp is mandatory for all Grade 12 learners from Xolani SSS. This year we will also have some learners from a neighboring high school participate as their school has been undergoing some reforming for the past three years.

The following groups and individuals are also involved:

1. School Governing Body
2. Teachers from Xolani
3. Community and Parents
4. Education Officials
5. Minister of Religion
6. South African Police Service – provides security for the school
7. Sifunda Kunye Educational Project – provides some funding and volunteers for the camps

How many teachers participate in the camps?

This year there will be 15 teachers who are directly involved. The rest of the faculty are also involved, though indirectly. The entire school pulls together to support the Grade 12 learners as they approach the important exam.

What is the daily schedule like?

Daily Routing for Xolani SSS Camp

Time	Activity
4h00-05h00	Bath
05h00-07h00	Individual Student studies
07h00-07h45	Breakfast
07h45-08h00	Morning Prayers
08h00-10h00	Revision with Educators
10h00-12h00	Group Studies
12h00-12h45	Lunch
12h45-13h30	Leisure time
13h30-16h30	Individual Silent studies
16h30-17h00	Tea Time
17h00-19h00	Group studies
19h00-20h00	Supper
20h00-20h30	Bath
20h30-10h30	Individual Silent studies
10h30	Sleep time / lights out

➤ Group studies + Individual silent time – Educators present at all times

Where do learners and teachers sleep?

In 2015 we used 5 classrooms as sleeping space. In 2016 we plan to use the same 5 classrooms as sleeping space. We request that the learners bring their own sleeping bags and blankets; however, not all learners are able to do so resulting in many learners sharing thin blankets. The learners and teachers sleep on the floor of the classrooms.



**Sleeping Areas**

**Exam Room**



How is security?

The school is well fenced with strong security fencing and a locking gate. The neighboring police station is informed prior to the start of the camp and officers take turns patrolling the perimeter of the campus. We also hire two private security guards that work continuous shifts.

How does the community get involved?

The community is always informed and fully supports the camp. Individuals and groups arrange prayer services. Local businesses also help us with some funding. In 2015, Nicks Food sponsored R1000 worth of food and the fruit Market donated bananas.

What support do you receive from Sifunda Kunye?

Sifunda Kunye sponsored food for the camp in the amount of R12500 towards in 2015. Xolani's Sifunda Kunye Senior Facilitator, Jolande Swartz, volunteers with the learners throughout the camp. Sifunda Kunye Project Manager Zander Hampson is always on call to provide additional assistance. The Sifunda Kunye computer lab also available for research and the CAMI English and Maths software provides valuable revision tools and practice assessments. Many of the group sessions are held in the lab so that teachers can make use of the projector and screen for lessons.

What additional support does the camp require?

The camp always requires additional funding. We need funding for food as we serve the pupils 3 meals per day. In 2015 we had trouble affording adequate amounts of food and ran short several days.

In 2016 we will need sleeping bags and mats as the pupils sleep on the floor and it becomes cold during the evenings. Many learners do not own and cannot afford their own sleeping bags. They often share with family members at home and so they cannot afford to bring blankets with them. Learners have shared blankets and sleeping bags in the past. It is obvious that the sleeping arrangement isn't conducive to a good night's sleep, impacting the learner's ability to study the next day. We are working with Sifunda Kunye to find a solution to this problem.

How do the camps they help the learners and the school?

In 2015 Xolani hosted its first full sleep-over camp in response to a dismal September preliminary pass rate average of just 25%. There was not a lot of hope that fall; however, the camp worked wonders and boosted the final results. The Grade 12 learners managed to achieve a 72,3% pass rate despite their low showing in September.

The camp assists learners by providing a dedicated study space with academic support. It is especially helpful to those learners who have no place to study

and those whose families may not have adequate food. Learners are also in an environment where they are able to assist one another and share information. In addition to study space and nutrition, learners receive dedicated support and tutoring from their teachers before and after formal classes.

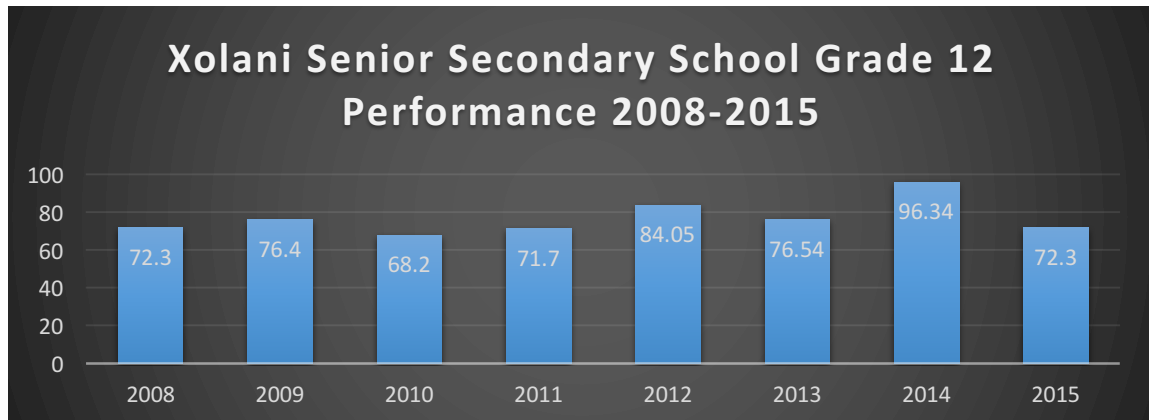
The camps have helped Xolani to maintain its position as the highest performing secondary school in Zwelitsha (circuit 13). The school receives recognition and respect from the community and Department of Education for going the extra mile and providing the opportunity for learners to study and focus during the camps.

The camp in 2015 also helped to boost teacher confidence and motivation. Many Xolani teachers were rewarded as top teachers in various subjects.

Number of Learners in 2014, 2015 and number attending in 2016

Year	Enrolment	Grade 12 Enrolment
2014	536	83
2015	544	101
2016	592	99

Historic review of matric results at Xolani SSS 2008 – 2015.



Success stories from 2015

In 2015 Kilani Mbalentle was Xolani's top student. Kilani comes from a very disadvantaged background. She is the eldest child in a single parent home and she faced difficulties getting to school and getting adequate nutrition at home. The Camp in 2015 provided Kilani with a stable learning environment; she had plenty to eat and a place where she could focus on her studies and prepare for the examination. Kilani achieved a Bachelors pass and obtained 4 distinctions and 2 B's. Xolani is immensely

proud of her efforts and we know that she likely would not have succeeded without the matric camp.

*Xolani 2015 pupils that achieved very good marks through hard work: where are they now in 2016?*

Name of Learner	Gender	Higher Education Studies 2016	Institution
Kilani Mbalentile	Female	Agricultural Management	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Sisonke Moyakhe	Male	Diploma of Electrical Engineering	Walter Sisulu University
Masizole Tokwana	Male	Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting	Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Sesethu Thengani	Female	Bachelor of Law	University of Fort Hare
Gwala Zezethu	Female	Bachelor of Social Work	University of Fort Hare
Sisipho Manyaka	Female	Bachelor of Science	University of Fort Hare
Madikane Chulumanco	Male	Bachelor of Civil Engineering	Tshwane University of Technology
Jonas Simvuyenze	Female	Bachelor of Social work	University of Fort Hare

Subject % passed 2012-2015

Subject % passed	Xhosa	English	Accounting	Economics	Business Studies	Maths	Physical Science	Maths Lit	Agriculture	Tourism	Life Science	Geography	History	L.O
Year														
2012	100	97,1	71,4	61,5	81,8	52,6	66,7	78	80	100	100	77,1	100	100
2013	100	100	71,4	85,7	61,8	57,1	58,3	80	76,5	100	66,7	88,5	100	100
2014	100	100	85,7	85,7	90,2	88,9	100	87,8	92	100	100	68,2	100	100
2015	100	99,1	58,3	71,4	75,4	66,7	26,7	54,4	73,2	98,6	93,8	76,1	92,9	100