



Former Velabahleke High pupil Nompilo Mkhize, a second-year financial accounting student at the Durban University of Technology, takes the school's pupils for a communication skills class.

PICTURE: SIYANDA MAYEZA

# KZN schools beat the calendar with early start

## Sphelele Ngubane

SENIOR classes are in full swing even before the term begins at KwaZulu-Natal's high-achieving township and rural schools, such as Velabahleke and Menzi High.

Velabahleke High School in Umlazi has brought in former pupils, who are studying at a range of institutions, to help the class of 2014 prepare.

The students have been helping pupils with subjects

and to improve their interpersonal skills.

Nompilo Mkhize, a second-year student at the Durban University of Technology, took Grade 10 pupils for a communication skills class.

"At university, most students have no confidence when making presentations," she said.

"With this class I am hoping they will conquer that."

Mbongeni Mtshali, the school's principal, said the stu-

dents had added value to the school's offerings.

Menzi High, also in Umlazi, has already issued learning materials to pupils.

Zamokwakhe Mhlongo, who teaches maths in Grade 12, said he didn't rely only on prescribed books to teach his pupils, but used previous exam papers.

Physical science teacher Malibongwe Khumalo said the school's focus was not only on matric pupils.

"We groom our learners from Grade 10, so when they get to the last stage they are fully prepared."

Zwelibanzi High pupils are to gather in the school hall today, where teachers will speak to them about the school's expectations for the year.

The principal, Sibusiso Maseko, attributed the school's excellence to a passionate team of teachers, who he said also played a parental role.

"We are a school that accepts children who the community has rejected. It's like a reformatory school, where children are given hope in their lives," he said.

The school starts classes at 6.30am, and lessons finish at 4pm.

Nkandla's Velangaye Comtech High had pupils of all grades start classes last Tuesday, so any disturbances during the school year would not affect them.