

MCEASA Conference, 14 October 2024

Maritzburg College in association with the English Academy of Southern Africa held the 6th MCEASA Conference for English Language Teachers on 14th October. The vision of this conference stems from the need to encourage networking, dialogue and engagement across various institutions who are involved with the teaching of English. Through this, we are hoping to share knowledge and aid each other in our professional development. This year, the conference theme was Literate learners have no limits! The theme focussed on the role of ELT in promoting literacy in the English classroom; acknowledging that the teacher is the main resource for education in our country. Our speakers dealt with a range of topics from learner engagement to developing critical thinking skills in learners. It was also enlightening to engage with teachers from various classroom contexts. Our Headmaster, Dr Luman offered a keynote presentation on the importance of 'The Story' in helping young people develop an understand of the self and others; Mrs Finnie (Deputy Head: Academics) offered an engaging presentation on Grit, to assist teachers with inculcating a growth mindset in young people.

We hosted over 220 attendees from across the country and representatives from the Department of Education. Mr Bulara Monyaki – Acting Director: Curriculum presented an engaging presentation of spurring the learner's journey to literacy. Professors Mbongeni Malaba (Deputy President of EASA) and David Robinson, both of whom have been pivotal in supporting this conference, also presented papers on 'The Crucible' (Arthur Miller) and Popular Culture in ELT, respectively. Mrs Rodelle Govender, coordinator of the conference and the Head of Languages and Arts at the school says: 'The issue of literacy and English Language Teaching is a concerning one and it is our hope that, by opening the conversation, we can inspire engagement and innovation in this area. We hope to continue with this exciting conference in the years to come.'

Well done to Mrs Govender and her team on a wonderful event!