

Pioneering new ways to empower pupils

Ruimsig — "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world..."

These wise words were spoken by South Africa's own pillar of change and innovation, former president Nelson Mandela.

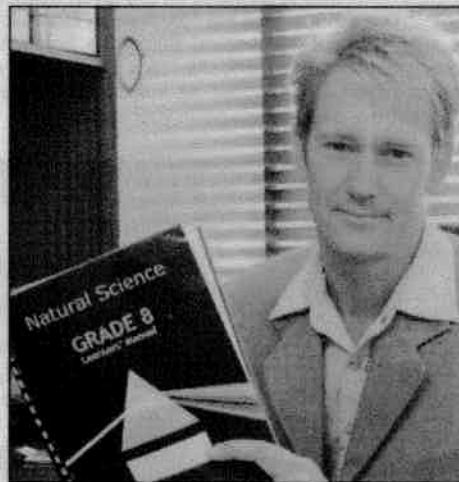
Drawing inspiration from this philosophy, Maragon Private School is taking dynamic steps in pioneering a new package of academic materials to present to pupils.

This comes in the form of a range of interactive learning manuals – supporting and aiming to improve the educational process by giving children the opportunity to evolve from being passive participants in the learning process, to becoming actively involved. Dion Kotzé, head of research and development, says, "Most pupils view textbooks as passive, and become mute recipients of ideas gleaned from the printed page.

"In an age where knowledge is accessible at the click of a button, Maragon has realised the need to change and adapt the way in which information is presented to pupils. In light of this, the school has established a subsidiary company, Maragon Media, which is responsible for addressing the challenges that a changing curriculum imposes on teaching and learning."

The interactive manuals are structured in such a way that they eliminate the need for textbooks, containing expertly-selected information relevant to each subject: engaging graphics, photographs, diagrams and illustrations; and practical, relevant resources for children to refer to.

Each topic includes review questions, suggestions for discussions, and numerous projects and activities. The exercises proposed at the end of each section test different levels of understanding.



Dion Kotzé, head of research and development at Maragon Private School, explains the benefits that interactive learning manuals hold for pupils.

Dion says, "Tried and tested in the classroom, the manuals ensure pupil participation, and can be customised to the particular requirements of a school. "Written by subject specialists with many years of teaching experience, appropriate subject learning material is being created, which eases use by both pupils and teachers.

"While it serves the national curriculum, the scope and adaptability of the manuals are as well suited for the home school as for the classroom, allowing for the elevation of subject standards, and, in the process, transforming and enhancing a pupil's vision."