

The following is an example of a written nomination for the TCS Excellence Awards. This example relates to Category 1 - Excellence in teaching and learning: early career teacher (0-3 years of teaching experience).

1. knows their students and how they learn and creates engaging, student-centred and productive learning environments

Jane's classroom is structured so the students have engaging spaces in which to work and she is constantly checking on their progress through school wide testing and observation practices to ensure that they are supported and being productive.

consults widely with peers in seeking and applying constructive feedback about his/her own practice

Jane consults with her teaching peers on pedagogical practices that will improve student outcomes. She has curriculum meetings where she provides examples of student work that she would like feedback on. She asks for advice on her teaching and application of the curriculum; she is always willing to apply the changes and is not afraid to ask for clarification on all areas of her teaching.

2. successfully implements evidence-based high impact teaching strategies which affirm the dignity and potential of each student

As well as seeking feedback on the curriculum, she is engaging with her peers to ensure that her classroom is embracing the Visible Learning (VL) practices that are school wide. She always ensures that her classes have a VL centred approach clearly displaying the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria for each lesson. She has immersed herself in the Reading Improvement Strategy (RIS) and has seen significant growth within her class, with half of her learners achieving medium to high growth in reading over the last six months.

3. ensures classroom practice is informed by planning for personalised learning and based on formative and diagnostic assessment of student skills, knowledge and understanding

Jane has ensured that she knows how to use the testing tools in order to measure student growth. She effectively facilitates Probe and PM tests and analyses the results to inform her next teaching cycle. This astute use of diagnostic assessment tools is an example of her ability to personalise student learning based on data.

4. ensures the choice of content and pedagogy is responsive to the cultural backgrounds and life experiences of students and challenges students to think deeply about the world and their place in it

Jane's warm, gentle nature is well received by her students. She is always caring and calm when engaging with her learners and genuinely cares for her students. This is particularly evident in her behaviour management approaches within the classroom, where she uses visual cues and whisper voice when directing the students. She has excellent skills to manage challenging behaviours and due to this her class is settled and connected to their learning. Jane's pedagogical approaches are sensitive to the different cultural backgrounds that exist within the school. She has made a conscious effort to get to know the families not only in her class, but across the school. Jane demonstrates this on a weekly basis when she voluntarily, in conjunction with another staff member, coordinates the school's football and netball training before school. Through this dedication she has been able to meet parents and community members that are outside of her classroom and does so with a genuine interest in their lives.