PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Over the past 12 months we have introduced 1-to-1 computers in our learning program. All students now have access to a digital device to support their work in class. I thought that it might be a good idea to reflect on how the introduction of technology across the curriculum is going for our students.

In the book "Literacy is not enough: 21st-Century Fluencies for the Digital Age", the following question is asked, "What skills will students need most to succeed in the 21st century?" The most common answers, the writers argue, include: problem solving; creativity; analytical thinking; collaboration; communication; ethics and accountability. Although we cannot know for sure what the future will look like, I agree that these areas will be very important to our students as they move on to future careers that will have them working up until 2070-2080.

COLLABORATION

In Indonesian, our students are communicating with our sister school through Skype. This allows students to use both video and text to run lessons in real time with students from another country. In Advance Youth, teams of students are communicating with outside organisations through the net to plan projects that will benefit our broader community. Many classes are using Edmodo to take class activities outside of the classroom into a 24/7 world where learning never stops. And Compass is finally allowing parents to go online to access student reports, to communicate with teachers and to talk with their children about the classwork that is beginning to be recorded online in class lesson plans. Computers are creating links between community members and the world.

CREATIVITY

In HIPE@9 and Junior Maths and English classes, students are actively using interactive whiteboards connected to notebooks to demonstrate understanding to a class and to involve other students in problem solving exercises. In senior Media, students are using computers and cameras to make movies or layout magazines. In senior Visual Communication and Design, we are loading Adobe Illustrator onto student notebooks to help them with design briefs and to develop portfolios of work. On every notebook, there are more than 50 high quality programs that allow for mind maps, drawing, design, presentation and a range of creative exercises for all students.

COMMUNICATION

Prior to the introduction of 1-to-1 technologies, students were contained by class room walls. Occasionally, teachers could book them into computer rooms, but the current technology gives students online access whenever and where-ever they need it. With Compass, parents can communicate more effectively than before with teachers. The potential for simplifying with 1-to-1 is encouragingly positive. I think that email exhausts nearly everyone who uses it. Sometimes it can resemble a mailbox full of junk mail. I think that the potential for online communication where we are not inundated with unnecessary information is rapidly approaching our students and every community member.

THE LIST GOES ON

It is early days yet for the introduction of 1-to-1 learning in our classrooms. We will continue to explore the potential of new technologies for the sake of our students. However, we commit to you the following:

- As long as Year 12 exams are written by hand, the majority of written work in class will be done by hand. We know that we use our mind in a different way when we write by hand and when we type. It is only fitting then, that students retain solid hand writing skills.
- Computers will not replace teachers. Over the past 20 years we have referred to them as tools that we use when we need to use them. We are now moving into a paradigm where computers are always available to use when we need them, more a way of working than a tool. They are becoming part of how we do business and how we learn. However, students still need to think, analyse, synthesise, reflect and make sense of the world. Computers will not do this for them and as such, computers will quite often need to be turned off.

Thank you for your support in this exciting journey. We will keep you informed about how it is progressing.

Michael Fitzgerald
College Principal
On Saturday 4 May 2013 forty-six Heathmont College students, along with their families, friends and teachers were presented to society at the annual Heathmont College Presentation Ball. After three months of dance rehearsals, preparations, and excitement the students were presented to society.

Students shared with the community their aspirations for their future. Careers such as a flight attendant, child care worker, electrician, nursing and work in the health and fitness industry were a few to be mentioned. After two formal dances, the students danced the night away, had professional photographs taken and relished in being the centre of attention for the night. All of the students looked equally beautiful and handsome on the night and it was a pleasure to be part of the experience with them.

Candice Tucker
Presentation Ball Coordinator

RMIT-INDUSTRIAL DESIGN NOW - Hands on pathways experience for our students

On 10 May 2013, Year 12 Visual Communication Design students had the fortunate opportunity to attend a workshop at RMIT at the industrial design studio. This opportunity was made possible through LEAP (Learn Experience Access Profession) a commonwealth government funded program.

Only two schools were invited to participate.

These workshops introduce students to innovative aspects of industrial design for sustainability and for the future of manufacturing. Our students participated in the following workshops.

- **Hyper Social** - design products and systems that change consumption behaviours.
- **After Auto Mobility** - Design a sustainable transportation vehicle for a post car world. Fairly “out there” concepts but our students held their own, in fact impressing the lecturers, teachers and students from other schools with their ideas.

Our students were introduced to some of the ways industrial studios function by participating in a live design experience. They were exposed to leading edge industrial design prototyping technologies, techniques for creating design and discovered new ways of thinking.

The students were also fortunate enough to get a quick tour of the university. Its experiences like these that help students think broadly about their future and career opportunities. In Unit 3 students need to be able to discuss aspects of industrial design and this hands on experience will serve them well this year.

Many thanks must go to Linda Lopez (Pathways Co-ordinator) who makes visits like this possible by establishing good contacts with tertiary institutions and understands the relevance of such visits as important in assisting students with pathways options.

My year 12 students made me feel very proud to be a teacher of Heathmont College. They conducted themselves in a very mature manner and represented our school in a very positive light.

Rita Chiodo
Visual Communication teacher (YR12)
Arts & Technology Domain leader

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Parents are requested to ring the College Absence Line before 9:00am if their student is to be LATE or AWAY due to illness or for any other reason.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in this matter.

Phone 9871 4888 then select 1
Year 10 students are reminded to ensure that all is in place for the Work Experience program (18 June – 29 June 2013). I remind parents/guardians and students that the program is compulsory and that as teachers will be visiting students in their placements, there will be no formal Year 10 classes at this time.

A Work Experience/Careers preparation program will be run for Year 10 students following the exams and prior to going to work experience placements.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mid Year Expo, Swinburne University: The Mid Year Expo will be held on Wednesday 12 June 2013, 4:30pm – 7pm at the Hawthorn Campus. The Expo is targeted to people looking to start a course mid year, but it is still a great forum for Year 12 students to get information about courses, scholarships, accommodation etc. at Swinburne. To register, go to http://www.swinburne.edu.au/midyear/events-advice/.

MAY EVENTS

• 23, 29, 30 May 2013: Meet Melbourne University, Albury (23), Hamilton (29), Warrnambool (30), www.futuresstudents.unimelb.edu.au/mm2013

• 28, 29, 30 May 2013: At Monash Seminar Series, Gippsland Campus Showcase (28), Biomedical Science, Radiography, and Nutrition & Dietetics (29) and Engineering (30), www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/

• 28, 29 May 2013: Focus on Melbourne University, Engineering (28), IT (28), Agriculture (29), www.futuresstudents.unimelb.edu.au/focus-melb

• 28, 29 May 2013: Introduction to University, Deakin University, Burwood Campus (28), Geelong Campus (29), http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/future-students

JUNE EVENTS


• 5 June 2013: Indigenous Student Experience Monash Day, Monash University, kristel.keleher@monash.edu.au

• 11, 25 June 2013: Information Sessions, University of Technology Sydney, IT Undergraduate Courses & Scholarships (11), Engineering Undergraduate Courses (25), www.uts.edu.au

• 12 June 2013: Mid Year Expo, Swinburne University, Hawthorn, http://www.swinburne.edu.au/midyear/events-advice/

As always I am happy to meet with students and parents/guardians to discuss Pathways. Please contact me at lopez.linda.a@edumail.vic.gov.au or by phone on 9871 4558

Linda Lopez
Pathways Coordinator

SCHOOL TRADING HOURS
Tuesdays 2.30pm – 5.00pm
Thursdays 12noon – 2.00pm

Uniforms can also be purchased directly from Klad Sports at their Rowville Shop
SHOP TRADING HOURS
Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm
Saturdays 9.00am – 1.00pm
2/9 Macro Court, Rowville. 3178
Ph: 9763 0266