

# Oh, the Places you'll go!



At this time of year, I often reflect on Year 12 students and the next steps they will take on their learning journey. I continually ask myself, “Have we prepared them for a world in which they will need to constantly adapt, evolve and create in an everchanging world?”

***Do you know that students are now living in the slowest rate of change that they will encounter in the rest of their lives?***

The ***Mparntwe Declaration*** sets out its vision for education in Australia and the commitment to improving educational outcomes for young Australians. The Mparntwe Declaration’s ***vision ... is for a world class education system that encourages and supports every student to be the very best they can be, no matter where they live or what kind of learning challenges they may face.***

It is my belief that we should focus our efforts on achieving this lofty vision. Where ***‘We support every student to be the very best they can be - Everyone Counts!’*** and we celebrate all learners and their growth. Where we focus on challenging all students to make a difference in their world.

From Kindergarten students are engaged in inquiry learning – with play-based investigative play, the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy are assessed and personalised growth plans developed for each child. Doors remain open and are not restricted by age or ability. Students move into genius time as we provide gradual release for students to explore the world around them, seeking to find meaning and

purpose. Coaching and goal setting program begins in Kindergarten and each student sets unique goals in conjunction with their coach, ***building a growth mindset culture and ensuring connectedness*** from the very beginning.

Students move into enrichment groups so that all learners can progress at their pace and explore beyond the surface to deeper and transfer learning. As we move along the years the pedagogies expand into project-based learning, flipped learning and mechanical learning each developed to encourage students towards self-directed learning.

Spaces need to be purpose built for agile learning and to allow for explicit teaching, masterclasses and collaboration. ***Learning can happen anywhere and at any time*** and the ***focus is on megacognition and how students learn best.***

In Year 9 learning is further personalised with an emphasis on individual pathways. Students have choice and can be accelerated in Mathematics, Science or English. Many begin their HSC in Business Services, Construction, Entertainment, Financial Services, Hospitality and Skills for Work. Students elect passion subjects in areas of interest, such as STEM: Design and Technology, Industrial Technology, PASS, Drama, Music, Art and TAS.

From Year 10 the majority of students would complete 70 hours of work placement in the real-world and undertaken an HSC course or been accelerated into the Preliminary HSC. A number of students will have commenced university and all are undertaking self-directed learning. In this model a student can conceivably leave with VET, HSC and University qualifications – the ***New Metrics.***

By Year 12 students are ready for the next stage of the journey.

I have put together several achievements from such a school:

- Students have already obtained HSC Band 6s and E4s in Year 10 & 11
- 63% of students have completed HSC units prior to Year 12
- Students have completed university units in Year 10, 11 & 12
- 12% of students in Year 12 have completed a university unit
- Students were accelerated into HSC courses in Year 9 in Mathematics and Music 1
- Extension courses are offered in English Ext 1, English Ext 2, Mathematics Ext 1, Mathematics Ext 2, History Ext and Science Ext
- 26% of students have obtained a Vocational Education and Training certificate in: Cert II Hospitality 2 Unit, HSC; Cert III Financial Services 2 Unit HSC or Cert II Business Services 2 Unit HSC;
- Students have undertaken Certificate III in Design Fundamentals through Whitehouse Institute of Design

- Students are studying EVET External Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (Nursing)
- Students are undertaking Post School Options
- Students have completed school-based traineeships with KFC and McDonald's
- 95% of students who aspire to attend university have received an offer prior to the HSC.
- 100% of students have a designated coach and have a next step.

I hope you enjoy reading about the possibilities – Oh, the Places you'll go.



[Dr Peter Webster](#)