



St Andrew's
Anglican College
with Vision and Spirit

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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you our vision for teaching and learning at St Andrew's. This is captured in our new St Andrew's Teaching and Learning Framework, which we have entitled *Learning in Action*. The rationale behind *Learning in Action* is explained below. It is a genuine response to the needs of students as they learn and grow in the 21st Century.

PREP – YEAR 12 **LEARNING** *in Action*

Why do we need a Teaching and Learning Framework?

The increasing interconnectedness across the world and the associated changes in society, technology, study and work environments present new challenges and opportunities for young people. Young people in the future will need to be innovators and entrepreneurs, constructing new ways of knowing and doing which will continue to replace existing ways at a fast pace. Expertise limited to one type of technology or way of thinking and doing will no longer equip individuals throughout their working life. Young people will need to be flexible, constantly learning and adapting to a networked society.

So how do we prepare our young people for this world?

Instead of concentrating on specific information or a knowledge set, young people need to learn more about how to access, manage and use information. They will have to learn to think in different ways according to the situation in which they find themselves. They need to make choices, solve problems, be creative, plan and reflect and be able to work independently in extended learning projects. Our future citizens will be required to be highly literate, critical thinkers, ethical and empathetic. Our young people must learn to look beyond their immediate context to relate and respond to a highly complex world with compassion and moral discernment.

Researchers propose that schools focus on how we learn in addition to what is important to learn. This will enable children and young adults to be flexible, adaptable, resourceful, reflective and resilient.

Therefore, learning in the world today is fundamentally different from the learning in which we as teachers and parents engaged during our time at school. How can we best prepare our young people for what lies ahead?

Our Context:

In the educational environment, we are working in a context of multiple demands. In Queensland, education in senior schooling is under review and changing. The new system to emerge will require students to sit for external examinations as well as perform in school-based assessments. On the National stage, the National Assessment Program in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 is further developing and there are ongoing discussions and developments in a National Curriculum.

Despite these external requirements and the function they perform, it is important that we remain true to our Mission Statement at St Andrew's:

Based on our Christian foundation, we leverage the College's positive energy and supportive community to enable our students to move confidently into their futures

We are educating children for life, which moves our focus beyond an exam or narrow measure of performance. We want to enable students to face an exam with resilience and resourcefulness, if need be, but also to be highly productive in creative industries and be emotionally intelligent. Most importantly, we want to enable students to have a strong sense of self and purpose in life that is not dependent on high achievement but effort.

We hope that *Learning in Action* will nurture in students a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes learning and how to learn so that they can move into their futures with confidence.

The outworking of the Framework is through the Walker Learning Model in Primary, and our model for middle years' pedagogy in Secondary, which is being implemented in Year 7 2017. In conjunction with Positive Education, which encourages values and character traits through ways of thinking, a student will have a firm foundation on which to build a healthy self-concept and maintained engagement in education.

The Way Ahead:

The St Andrew's Teaching and Learning Framework, *Learning in Action*, is our collective response to these challenges. It focuses our energies on what is important. Built on Positive Psychology, we nurture in children the values and character traits that will sustain them in all that they encounter in life. Founded on high engagement and active learning processes within increasingly diverse environments, our Primary School students develop independent learning skills through the Walker Learning Model. New learning technologies enable us to personalise learning and stimulate creativity as well as critical thinking through sustained learning projects. Our new Learning Management System, Canvas, is enabling teachers to design learning activities that encourage student choice and responsibility. Furthermore, feedback on learning informs our assessment and learning design processes. *Learning in Action* emphasises processes of thinking to foster the practise and development of skills, so that learning habits can be formed to sustain adult life.

Parents will find in the accompanying brochure two versions of the *Learning in Action* Framework. One is designed for parents and describes what effective learning looks like in our school environment. The other version is designed for our students and explains to them what they need to do to learn effectively. It is a picture of students being active in their learning.

Please take the time to pursue the document included. We are excited about *Learning in Action* and all it can mean for the education of our students at St Andrew's Anglican College. We invite parents to share in the vision and support their children as they engage in learning.



Adele Guy
HEAD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING



Reverend Chris Ivey
PRINCIPAL