iPadagogy!

iPadagogy is currently a popular term being used by university academics and educators and refers to the pedagogy (i.e. the method and practice of teaching) related to the use of iPads. The use of mobile technological devices in education poses many questions and challenges about how, what and when things are taught in schools. It expands on our current understanding of what the school learning environment looks like and also brings with it many ethical and safety issues that schools must address.

The most recent version of the iPad is not just a tool for consumption but it provides opportunities for the user to create and contribute to knowledge through the device’s ability to take photos, film video and connect to the Internet. Students using these devices have the ability to not just submit their finished work to the teacher but to publish and present their work for others to evaluate and learn from. The opportunities for changes in the style and structure of the way things are learnt using these devices is very broad and continually expanding. It is important to note that such devices are tools for teaching and will never replace the teacher. The teacher has to provide the most appropriate activities and avenues for learning and the iPad is just one tool at their disposal.

As you are aware, the students in Year 7 at All Saints’ College are required to purchase an iPad for use in the Year 7 programme. This programme has been running for four years now with all students from Year 7 to Year 10 having an iPad with them at school. The students quickly adapted to these devices and there have been many benefits from their introduction.

Building on from what we have learnt during the adoption process of iPads in the Senior School, the Junior School has just acquired two class sets of iPads which will be used by all classes. Teachers are busy formulating the most beneficial ways to incorporate the use of these iPads into their teaching and learning programmes. I expect very soon we will be seeing some very enthusiastic and excited students making good use of these devices.

Junior School staff members have also recently received an iPad which, through the use of Apple TV Boxes, will be able to connect to the Interactive Whiteboards in their classrooms. Students in the class using iPads will also be able to display what is on their iPads on the big screen making lessons very interactive and inclusive.

I enjoy new challenges and I feel excited about the potential these new technological devices bring to the classrooms.