Keeping up with the latest technology is as easy as ICT

The current generation of children in Australia is growing up in a world where they expect to gain information instantly and be able to communicate with others, sometimes on the other side of the planet, from their electronic device immediately. Such an environment provides challenges and implications for the way these children’s educational programmes are designed and delivered both in schools and online. This is not implying that many traditional approaches to teaching are obsolete, rather it suggests that there should be a blended approach where technology is integrated into the curriculum as another tool for teaching and learning.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is now an inherent and integral part of Infants and Primary School education in New South Wales. All Saints’ College Junior School, guided by the ICT Capabilities Scope and Sequence mandated by the NSW Board of Studies, is constantly experimenting with ways of integrating ICT initiatives into the teaching and learning programmes across all classes. Such initiatives increase student engagement, enhance learning experiences and provide opportunities for extension and enrichment.

The integration of ICT starts with the youngest members of our school. These young children are already coming to school with the knowledge of using computers and can intuitively adapt to using new programs very quickly. Pre-Kindergarten students are introduced to basic applications such as ‘Cookie Doodle’ and ‘Splashtop Classroom’ which are highly interactive and hands-on.

Students in the Junior School have ready access to a class set of iPads, laptops in the Library and desktop computers both in the classroom and in computer labs. Our Infants students have been experimenting with Quick Response (QR) codes using the app QR Creator. They make QR codes that are linked to their work and then scan the codes on iPads to see information about their work. Some of our Infants classes are using ICT devices to create movies and photographs to be used to showcase their achievements. Such opportunities encourage the students to take ownership of their learning.

Primary students have been involved in a wide variety of initiatives integrating ICT. They have been using an application that translates English into Arabic. One class has made a fantastic movie for ‘Behind the News’ and have also used ‘Comic Strip Design’ to record their experiences from camp. Students have also started their own Blog which is a forum they have used to discuss the class novel they are studying. Some Primary students have been busy designing houses on a computer-aided design (CAD) program called ‘SketchUp’.

Technology is developing at an exponential rate and schools need to keep up or else they will be left behind. As is promoted in the College’s Mission Statement, ‘educating the whole person for the challenges of a changing world’, All Saints’ strives towards offering students the most relevant and up-to-date education programmes in today’s rapidly changing environment.

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