What is it that future employers are looking for? How do we prepare our students for their future?

Our students eventually grow up to become citizens – employers, employees, professionals, educators and caretakers of our planet in the 21st century. Beyond mastery of standards, what can we do to prepare them? What can we promote to be sure they are equipped with the skill sets they will need to take on challenges and opportunities that we can not yet even imagine.

According to studies and research, more than half of students are pursuing a dying career. For those students whom the education system does work, fewer and fewer of the jobs they might have been able to get 10 years ago will be available, whilst even those students who do well at school might also struggle to find employment. So, what happens when big employers decide that a school education isn’t the barometer of aptitude it once was? What are these employers looking for?

Schools that understand how to foster genuine engagement, resilience and growth mindsets in their communities will be the ones that are future-proofing.

Our Year 10 uCreate program, Project-Based Learning and Positive Education programs are some of the examples of the skill-set and learning we provide for future-proofing;

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Students of today need new skills for the coming century that will make them ready to collaborate with others on a global level. Whatever they do, we can expect their work to include finding creative solutions to emerging challenges.

New “learning” does not become permanent memory unless there is repeated stimulation of the new memory circuits in the brain pathways. Students need to use what they learn repeatedly and in different, personally meaningful ways for short-term memory to become permanent knowledge that can be retrieved and used in the future. Through PBL we support our students making memories permanent by providing opportunities for them to “transfer” school learning to real-life situations.

POSITIVE EDUCATION/uCREATE

In order for collaboration to happen within a global community, job applicants of the future will be evaluated by their ability for communication with, openness to, and tolerance for unfamiliar cultures and ideas. To foster these critical skills, today’s students will need open discussions and experiences that can help them learn about and feel comfortable communicating with people of other cultures.

Children are born with brains that want to learn. They are also born with different strengths (character strengths) - and they grow best through those strengths. They are the psychological ingredients for displaying human goodness and they serve as pathways for developing a life of greater virtue. They make up the positive components of what is best in ourselves and students.

GROWTH MINDSET (PBL/POSITIVE EDUCATION)

When our students understand that, through neuroplasticity, they can change their own brains and intelligence, together they can build their resilience and willingness to persevere through the challenges that they will undoubtedly face in the future. The growth mindset has been shown over and over to have powerful ramifications on student motivation and learning and school success. When they focus on improvement rather than on whether they are smart, they will flourish and learn a great deal more.

As educators, we constantly strive to prepare our students for the ‘real world’ that exists around them. We want to prepare them to lead productive and successful lives once they leave us and enter the realm of adulthood.

Colette Bos
Acting Executive Leader (Years 7-12)
MEET THE STAFF

Katrina Axford

“My name is Katrina Axford and I am the PBL Coordinator and Senior Years Visual Art teacher. I have been teaching since 2007 and at Mark Oliphant College since it opened. I truly love teaching Art and enjoy when students embrace their creative sides. In my ‘real life’ I love travelling and have just booked a big adventure to Canada and America at the end of the year that I am super excited about.”

ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE UN YOUTH FORUM

On Wednesday the 19th of August students from Mark Oliphant College travelled to Golden Grove High School to participate in the Asylum Seeker and Refugee UN Youth Forum.

The forum allowed students to spend a day exploring the topic of Refugee Rights: Seeking Asylum in the Modern World, and engage with one of the international community’s most pressing issues, with other likeminded students from their area.

Throughout engaging workshops, interactive problem solving challenges and an awesome lineup of guest speakers, students tackled the big questions including:

• What does it mean to be a refugee or asylum seeker?
• What responsibilities does Australia have under the UN Refugee Convention?

Tom Griffith – Year 10

ROAD AWARENESS PROGRAM

On Thursday September 17th the year 11 students will be involved in the Road Awareness Program (RAP). The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) is a powerful presentation aimed at educating students in road awareness. RAP targets license-aged drivers and road users at secondary schools across South Australia.

During the presentation firefighters will discuss their personal experiences, focussing on how people are affected by road crashes and how a young person’s life may change following a motor vehicle crash. Videos and photographs are also incorporated into the presentation. The videos contain graphic footage of real crashes and some crash re-creations.

The highlight of the program is when a crash survivor talks to the students about their ordeal. They make an impassioned plea for the classmates to learn from their mistakes.

At the conclusion of the presentation, firefighters will hand out a RAP PAK to each student that includes an evaluation form, which will be collected by the firefighters before they leave the school. The RAP PAK also contains a Parent Young Person Safe Driving Agreement developed by Dr. Bill Griggs from the Major Trauma Centre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

If you do not wish for your child to be involved in this presentation can you please send a note with your child on the day or contact us at the school

Jerelle Steer - Leader (Learning and Well Being)