The Notebook Program

Information and Communications Technologies

The continuing advances in Information Communication Technologies (I.C.T.) have changed the way people share, use, develop and process information and technology. In schools, these changes have not only led to new ways in which students construct knowledge, collaborate, investigate and present ideas, but have altered the learning process itself. To successfully participate as 21st century citizens, all young people need become increasingly competent in the use of I.C.T. with a flexibility to adapt to ongoing changes to technology (MCEETYA 2008). Overnewton College has an integrated approach to the development of I.C.T. skills from Junior School through to graduation. The Notebook program at Canowindra represents an important step in this journey as students grow to become confident participants in this rapidly changing global community.

Since its inception, the Canowindra program has featured the use of notebook computers, through the Notebook Program and the teaching of I.C.T. capabilities across all learning areas students develop skills in information access and management, information creation and presentation, problem solving, decision making, communication, creative expression, and empirical reasoning. This can include conducting research, creating multimedia information products, analysing data, designing solutions to problems, controlling processes and devices, and supporting computation while working independently and in collaboration with others (Australian Curriculum 4.2). Therefore, the development of I.C.T. skills is not about learning a fixed set of skills applicable to various programs; rather, it is about developing responsiveness and confidence in navigating through ongoing technological developments, many of which have not yet been invented. The development of these skills is integral to students' growth in becoming confident users and managers of their own device. Furthermore, being responsible for their own notebook increases student independence and responsibility.

The Notebook program at Canowindra provides students with a digital immersion learning experience, reflective of their increasingly digital lives. The use of I.C.T. at Canowindra supports the creation of flexible, interactive, student-centred learning environments and an I.C.T. curriculum which is continually developing to best provide opportunities to reflect advances and innovation in this field. Learning experiences at Canowindra currently involve a range of smart technologies, Web 2.0 tools, involvement in online communities, the use of a range of College and internet based applications to support creating and publishing finished products, as well as online strategies for collaboration, social networking and synchronis and asyncronis classroom conversations. Through this program, students not only develop their skills, they learn online etiquette, problem solving strategies, the appropriate use of different online strategies and new ways to learn and present their understanding.

To support this environment, all classrooms have wireless network access and access to power. Students can safely store notebooks in their lockers. The College will provide students with technical support when required. The computers are configured to run on the College Network and should continue to work effectively if students do not alter settings when using the notebooks at home.

All students are expected to read, sign and abide by the conditions outlined in the College Acceptable Use Policy.

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