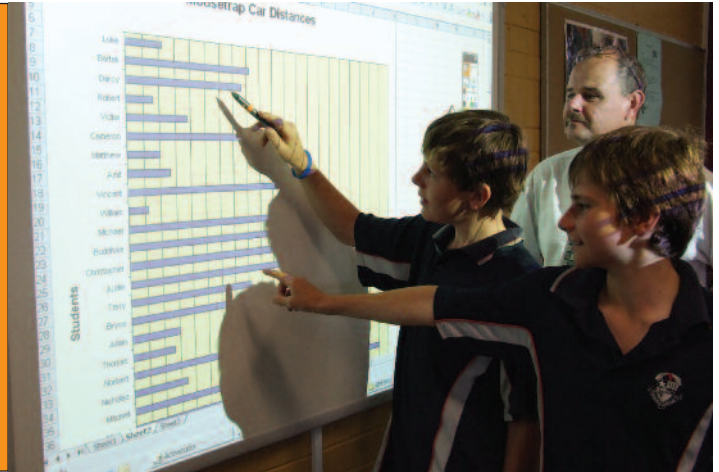


PROMETHEAN TECHNOLOGY INSPIRES A PASSION FOR LEARNING AT SALESIAN COLLEGE, AUSTRALIA



Salesian College is an all boys Catholic secondary school located in the Chadstone suburb of Melbourne, Australia. Catering for 900 students, Salesian prides itself on offering a broad curriculum with a wide variety of subject choices.

Reflecting its ongoing commitment to keep abreast of the latest developments in teaching pedagogy, Salesian has invested in a school-wide implementation of Promethean Activboards and accompanying Activstudio software.

THE CHALLENGE

All schools are challenged to create the most effective learning environments to meet the evolving needs of today's generation of students. In an age of interactive technology, this means incorporating new tools into lessons to take learning to the next level.

Salesian College aims to fulfil this objective whilst following the educational vision of Saint John Bosco in which "education is largely a matter of the heart". As such, the college strives to encourage a passion for learning among its entire student community.

Recognising the potential of interactive technology, Salesian has installed Activboards with accompanying Activstudio software in every classroom.

THE SOLUTION

The Activboard is an advanced interactive whiteboard that has been developed specifically for the classroom environment. Operated by electromagnetic technology, using a wireless Activpen, the Activboard offers teachers higher levels of accuracy and control, compared with standard touch sensitive boards.

With full computer mouse functionality, the Activpen allows teachers and students to navigate the screen content in the same way they would any other computer programme, as well as link seamlessly to the internet.

Key to the interactivity of the Activboard is the accompanying Activstudio software. Designed by teachers, for teachers, to suit the needs of learners aged 11 and above, Activstudio offers a variety of features to create a thoroughly engaging learning experience.

Teachers can develop their own electronic flipcharts, incorporating a range of media as well as customising the toolbar to meet the requirements of each lesson.

Inviting students to complete activities on the Activboard helps retain their interest in lessons and encourages them to become active learners by enabling them to acquire knowledge experientially.

THE BENEFIT

Tina Apostolopoulos, Director of Learning and Curriculum at Salesian College, believes that the introduction of Promethean's Activboards marks the college's commitment to providing a stimulating learning environment. "As a college, we are committed to creating the most effective learning environments for our students. With technology playing an increasingly important role in contemporary society, we felt that incorporating multimedia facilities, including interactive technology, would be pivotal in achieving this aim both now and in the future."

Selected for its value as a long-term investment, Salesian College installed an Activboard in every classroom, Tina continues: "After researching the market, we felt that Activboards were the most intuitive and offered the widest range of tools. We were also impressed by the software updates we would receive as part of the whole package. As such, we decided to implement the Activboards in all classrooms at once, providing equal access throughout the school."

From the outset, Salesian College recognised that training would be key to integrating the technology into everyday teaching practice, Tina explains: "The Activboards represented an opportunity to encourage all teachers to develop their pedagogical capacity. As such, the college has focused on the professional development of staff to ensure that they are equipped to use the software to its full advantage."

"The College asked for a few teachers to volunteer to complete the training and become trainers themselves. The idea behind this was to create a core team of experts who could share their knowledge and skills with colleagues."

For Salesian College, one of the greatest benefits of the technology has been the opportunity for students to use the Activboards as well as teachers, Tina comments: "Students are eager to use the Activboard and are confident with its tactile and interactive nature. As a consequence, teachers have found that students are more focused and engage in their lessons in a very different and much improved manner."

To conclude, Tina comments on how teachers are enjoying the flexibility of creating innovative learning materials: "Training has been supported in an ongoing fashion and the aim to have every teacher at Level one training by the end of the year is well on track. Teachers are appreciative of the resources they are now able to develop for future learning. They are impressed by the range of tools available and how these can be used to manipulate data to create an interesting and dynamic learning experience."