

## Case Study

### Eltham College

#### **Eltham College: Takes the leap and reaps the benefits of digital learning in the classroom.**

For Ms. Tuckerman and many other teachers at Eltham College, one of Melbourne's top independent schools, the end of the phony 'Dog ate my homework' excuse is just one of the many benefits being reaped by the implementation of Studywiz.

"The age old excuse was always, 'I lost the sheet' or 'I didn't know it was due today'," explains Ana Tuckerman, who teaches Media and Multimedia at Eltham College. "The way I've set up Studywiz is that all the due dates come on the opening page in the information section. So as soon as the student opens up the page to my subject they can see week by week exactly what's happening in the course, all the due dates, and they know exactly what is due when."

#### **Transforming the traditional classroom**

Since 2008, Eltham College has been using the Studywiz Learning Environment, a web-based learning platform which, in simple terms, facilitates learning through the use of the Internet. The school has always been at the forefront when it comes to online curriculum, and in recent times has taken to further delving into the digital learning realm. "Two years ago we started exploring online learning environments for Eltham College. We had had an online resource depository and online progressive reporting for nearly nine years, but wanted to expand what was available" explains Kerri McKenna, the Director, Learning Development at the school. "Studywiz was gaining a lot of acceptance and we liked the balance of flexibility & structure."

In short, the Studywiz technology allows for all classes to be posted online, and for the students who use the system to access assignments, download homework, take tests and quizzes, and participate in discussions and chat forums. Students can also store all their work in the Studywiz eLocker storage space, which is an online hard drive. Living in a media-rich world dominated by Facebook, blogs, and Twitter, it seems only logical that the learning sector take the next step.

"It was received really well actually. I teach multimedia so my students are on the computers all the time, so for them it has been incredibly handy" says Ms. Tuckerman. "What surprised me was when they were doing the online discussions, how seriously the students took it once they knew that it was going to be public and all the other students could see what they had written. Also, it meant that the quiet students who may not talk up in class got their point across."

#### **Increasing partnerships with parents**

While Studywiz has been an effective tool for students in terms of flexibility, access and interaction, it also has been extremely convenient and beneficial for teachers and parents alike. "From a teacher's point of view, it's fantastic for me to say to the parents that they have access and can see what their child is doing" says Ms. Tuckerman. "Particularly, I have a couple of special needs kids in the class. I will always send an email to their parents whenever I publish new stuff, particularly relating to the written work. So then the parents can be involved to help that student who needs a little bit more assistance to get things done."

"Also, because I put most of the content online, I do less class instruction and more one on one teaching. It also lets the students move ahead if they have finished. There are times when I have students working on a set of 10 tasks and there could be students working on five of six different ones."

#### **School of the future**

Keeping in tune with Eltham College's reputation as a leader in 21st Century education is the opening of the Melbourne City School in February of 2010. The school, which will be located in the heart of the city and will cater for working parents, will be another opportunity to merge the traditional school environment with an innovative technology like Studywiz.

These working parents, who in the past have not had the adequate time and facilities to maintain the proper levels of interest in their child's academic life, now have no excuses. "The new Melbourne City School will use Studywiz just as Eltham College does" says Dr. McKenna. "Used well, Studywiz can help support teacher, student and parent communication, and help parents to understand what their child is involved in at school."

For further information on Studywiz visit [www.studywiz.com](http://www.studywiz.com)