

TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – TOWNSVILLE SHS

DATE OF AUDIT: 08-09 MAY 2013



Background:

Townsville SHS, located in the suburb of South Townsville, was established in 1924. The school has a student enrolment of 685 students, including approximately 97 English as Second Language (ESL) students. The current Principal is Mr Scott Stewart.

Commendations:

- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit there has been significant improvement particularly in the domains of An Explicit Improvement Agenda, An Expert Teaching Team and Effective Teaching Practices.
- The embedded practice of teacher observation and feedback to colleagues both within and across faculties which is designed to improve pedagogical practice.
- The development of the comprehensive database, the Data book, to provide extensive information about each student, and the professional development that has been undertaken by all staff members on the use of the data for differentiation purposes.
- The significant planning that has been undertaken in preparation for the implementation of Junior Secondary, including participation in a peer review process and the introduction of junior leadership positions.
- The extensive support given to the English as Second Language (ESL) students to assist their integration into a secondary school environment.
- The structural differentiation provided through the programs of excellence – the Tropics Program for basketball and the Navigating Education Program for gifted and talented students.
- The implementation of a whole school strategy to improve student spelling.

Affirmations:

- The introduction of a process of target setting for every student in every subject and the establishment of class and cohort targets for each year level.
- The articulation of lesson goals that are being made explicit at the beginning of each lesson to focus student learning.
- The work commenced on developing Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for students with diverse learning needs.
- The establishment of committees to progress the school improvement agenda – pedagogy, personal development and leadership, positive behaviour support, literacy and numeracy, junior secondary and the budget committee.
- The regular review of student results and the placement on a ladder to monitor and track student progress.

Recommendations:

- Review and evaluate the implementation of literacy strategies. Narrow and sharpen the focus across the school specifically in the area of reading and writing.
- Continue to develop differentiation strategies based upon student data to ensure personalised learning for all students including both the lower achieving and the higher achieving students.
- Set challenging targets to extend the higher achieving students, for example, the percentage of students to achieve an A in each class.
- Review senior work programs to identify and make explicit the common curriculum elements (CCEs) within each subject.
- Continue the well-established system of teacher observation and feedback and expand to include a model of coaching, capitalising on the strength and depth of teacher expertise.
- Ensure all work programs meet the requirements of the P - 12 Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework.
- Continue to implement the pedagogical framework to ensure a shared understanding of quality teaching at Townsville SHS.