Perth Modern School

THE MODERN INNOVATIONS CURRICULUM

Innovations, Entrepreneurship and Leadership

Rationale

The Modern Innovations Curriculum, central to our Middle Years Curriculum, is based around *innovation*, *entrepreneurship* and *leadership.* It forms part of our Business Plan 2020-2024 and is a priority for Perth Modern School.

In contemporary educational thinking, the teaching of innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership is considered increasingly important in a rapidly changing world. The Australian Curriculum's General Capabilities emphasise creativity, critical, creative and computational thinking and problem-solving as well as communication and collaboration. Cultivating these 21st century learning skills is the cornerstone of our *Modern Innovations Curriculum* in the Middle Years.

The **aim** of the program is to encourage students to explore, research and use their knowledge, skills or tools to uncover something new, to think outside the box and nurture talents and skills. It creates opportunities to stimulate a passion for **"trying to make a difference in the world."** Furthermore, initiative, creativity, imagination and social responsibility will be developed. Students will gain confidence as they learn to pitch and defend ideas.

Teachers provide the structure but allow students to go where they need to go to explore their creative thinking to solve real world problems. The program will use **expert learning** through **interdisciplinary** problem based projects, collaboration with real world mentors, experts and business and community partnerships to learn or be inspired by real world practitioners.

We believe that thinking involves the structured learning of a skills-set and the appropriate habits or **dispositions for thinking,** therefore a key aim is to add depth to students learning with structured visible thinking, particularly through the integration of the philosophical Community of Inquiry, Thinking Routines and Habits of Mind.

The *Modern Innovations Curriculum* extends the learning experience beyond subjects, content and grades by its emphasis on analysis, evaluation and synthesis, which are the phases of higher order thinking that must be used in the process of researching, problem-solving, and the planning and presenting of innovative solutions and ideas to an audience.

The *Modern Innovations Curriculum* links directly to **key principles of gifted and talented best practice** embracing **interdisciplinary** approaches to learning. It encourages inquisitiveness, imagination and engages students conceptually in real world issues. It differentiates learning in accordance with each student's interests by providing opportunity for choice

In Years 7 and 8 this program forms part of the core subjects and integrates learning areas through problem-based learning and STEAM as well as a structured Coding program. In Year 9 students complete a course in Entrepreneurship/Leadership and a Thinking program allowing students to engage in high level competitions and is designed to inspire independence, originality and perseverance and promoting a business model of thinking. Projects may revolve around the United Nations Global Sustainability Goals, Artificial Intelligence, free thinking Start-up ideas and marketplace learning.

The intent of the Modern Curriculum is to:

- Engage students in innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership learning and mindsets,
- Provide for authentic real world learning through interdisciplinary based studies including Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM),
- Develop an ethical approach to problem solving,
- Engage students in the love of learning,
- Develop resilience and change management skills,
- Offer opportunities to develop students critical understanding and use of ICT,
- Develop Metacognition: Critical, Creative and Computational Thinking,
- Support the Cross Curricula priorities and General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum,
- Develop skills required for tertiary studies, and
- Foster self-discovery.