



AQUINAS COLLEGE

PRESENTS

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS

BY

THE YEAR 12 SRC

Student Voice

Student voice is important because it gives us students the opportunity to control our future within the school community. There should be year level assemblies at the beginning of each semester outlining any changes that may occur involving the school. We believe that any student should have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

An example of lack of student voice is the change of timetables where we did not have a say. Every student at Aquinas should be given a voice and have the right to speak and express opinions towards any school matters. Teachers at the school should be available to listen and help in any way possible.



Assessment For Learning

Marks provide motivation and gives you an indication of where you stand academically. A bad mark is obviously bad but it is worse if the teacher does not explain to you where you went wrong. Exams and coursework are both necessary as it gets you ready for assessments in senior years. It is not bad for your self esteem to receive bad marks it just indicates to you that there are areas needing improvement.





Learning to Learn

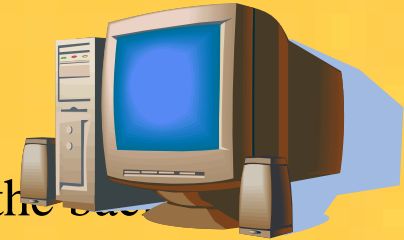


We believe that the best way to learn is through asking questions and communicating with teachers. This is called interactive learning. We prefer a topic explained rather than reading it out of a text book as it helps us to understand the task before us. When you work as an individual you do everything your own way and don't have to ask other people for their opinion. When you work in a group, everyone has to agree and the amount of work is divided between the group members. Working in a group is interactive and there is also a social aspect to it which makes better for the students.

New Technologies

The new opportunities that technology can bring to learning in our opinion are :

- MSN Tutorials
- Private year level study centres
- All text books having CD's in the class



We believe that it's good to use computers as well as whiteboards in the classroom because it means that the students have an opportunity to do both and not just sitting at a table and copying notes from the board. We think that instead of having the students explain technology to the teachers , that every semester a representative from the I.T department should come to the school and speak to the teachers about any changes that has occurred in technology that involves the school.

In the year 2026 we think that every classroom would have built in air conditions , heaters, common rooms for senior year levels, computers, and several whiteboards. Something that is important to us is having a year twelve common room.

Curriculum

The main reason we go to school is to learn , to make friends and to socialize. Not everything that we learn in school will help us in the future and we believe that there are some basic skills that are missing and that should be taught in school.

These skills are listed below.

Basic History

General Knowledge

Commerce economics/ stock exchange

How to Vote

How to change a tire

Basic mechanics

There are also social skills that aren't always evident at school which need drawing attention to. These skills are listed below.

Manners

Street Smart

Social Protocols

Communication

The city project and driving days are examples of activities that have already been put into place and have been a success.



School Organization and design

If we had to plan all six classes for a school day we would start with Mentor groups. We believe that pastoral is bad and a waste of time. Mentor groups are better as you arrive at school and get straight into classes and it enables communication with a teacher who is not your subject teacher and discuss any problems you have regarding your subjects. Your teacher will ask questions and give advice. Advice that is more impartial about managing subjects. Other classes that we would have would be English, Math's and Religion and then the other three classes should be electives chosen by the students or a skill learning class, for instance learning communication skills. The school day would begin with the mentor group at 8:45am and end at 3:20.

Something that we would add would be more opportunity's to use the computers during class time.

Work development

We think that Career Counselors play a significant role in our learning. We believe that guest speakers should come and speak to the students about particular areas. Representatives from the workforce, Universities and Tafes should come to the school and share a day outlining their area of expertise to students who are interested in those areas. An example of this is a speaker who is from the University of performing arts and takes out several students to a performance who are interested in that field and may be thinking about going to that universities.



Mentoring and coaching

The support that we need to give us guidance, advise and assistance would be from the teachers, family and Career Counselors. We don't believe that Mentoring such as by older students would be successful. We think that mentoring by a teacher who does not teach you for any other subject is very useful. Other people outside school who could assist us would be friends, tutors and family.



Advice and Guidance

Other people who play significant roles in our learning and help shape our future are Career Counselors. We believe that at school there should be more of these and career interviews with the student every term. Every student should have the opportunity to have access to an excel enter score calculator so that they have an idea and an estimation on what score they want and may get. There also could be extra support from the teachers where they could organize MSN on line tutorials with students.



THANKYOU
THAT CONCLUDE'S OUR
PRESENTATION