

## St Augustine's College transforms with the ActivPanel



## Background

St Augustine's College - Sydney is an independent, Catholic, non-selective boys' school in the northern beaches of Sydney, Australia. There are approximately 1,250 students enrolled from the ages of 10 to 18 years (academic years 5 to 12). Established by the Order of St Augustine (OSA) in 1956, the College has a very strong reputation in the local area for its sporting achievements, community service and ever-improving examination and assessment results. In 2016, St Augustine's College was ranked in the top 100 schools in the state of New South Wales based on HSC results. Guy Richards, the eLearning Integrator has been a long-term advocate of Promethean products and has played a significant role in the College's technology evolving from ActivBoards to ActivPanels. The College now owns 27 Promethean ActivPanels in total.

## Key considerations

St Augustine's College first decided to implement ActivBoards in 2009. Since then, in-line with education technology advancements, the College began to upgrade from interactive whiteboards to interactive flat panel displays (IFPDs) - Promethean ActivPanels. In 2015 Guy Richards, eLearning Integrator at the College, led a staff audit to determine which technology would provide the best investment. The decision to continue investment in ActivPanels was very strong, largely due to the significant use of the interactive elements of the boards during lessons.

"I have used Promethean products since 2004 in my first school in the UK, following further training and development I have been heavily involved in ICT implementation in the schools I have worked in. I consider Promethean hardware and software as integral in my teaching and I have become an advocate for both. When I joined St Augustine's in January 2009 I was delighted to find out there were a small number of ActivBoards already installed in some classrooms. Since then I have been involved in the transition to ActivPanels. I can confidently say that all teachers use them in almost every single lesson."



## Why the ActivPanel?

The decision to use ActivPanels was following an IT upgrade programme throughout the College. "We found that the projector-based display technology ship has sailed and my role on the Integrated Technology Team and brand loyalty to Promethean has meant we have now rolled out ActivPanels in all of our classrooms and learning spaces," said Guy.

For St Augustine's College, the technology installed was not solely based on hardware but also on the software provisions available. "Most teaching staff at St Augustine's College rely on the interactivity of the ActivPanel during lessons, using Promethean's interactive software and other learning tools including PowerPoint in order to deliver content.

In 2015 the College saw investment in a large building project which created six new labs and six new classrooms in a new science block; six new classrooms

and nine new multi-use break-out spaces in the primary block and a further ten new classrooms in the senior block. As part of the design, all of the classrooms have been built to be full of natural light with many having entirely glass internal walls. "The ActivPanels are the best solution for use in these high-light areas thanks to the low-glare and low-reflectivity the screen offers," continued Guy.

St Augustine's College now has 27 ActivPanels installed in classrooms and key learning spaces throughout the College, and will continue to remain part of the College's 2015-19 ICT plan, being implemented where necessary. Guy concludes, "Promethean remains our preferred partner for the foreseeable. The blend of solid, reliable hardware combined with innovative software provides our teaching staff with the best possible equipment for students to achieve the best results, it's a win-win solution."

## Classroom highlights

With the ActivPanel, natural daylight isn't a challenge in the new buildings at St Augustine's College and lesson content is visible from even the widest of angles.

Senior mathematics students are using a flipped learning approach, supported by the software integrated with the ActivPanel.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The ActivPanels were supplied by Empowered Learning



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