

Reigniting the passion for learning with effective edtech

A bit of background

Dapto High School is a government-funded secondary school in New South Wales which provides a thorough, inclusive education to around 1000 students.

The school is committed to improving educational outcomes through the use of technology, but as it is located in a lower socio-economic area, funds are often limited. As a result, technology provisions at the school are varied - some teachers have access to traditional interactive whiteboards, and some to projector-only systems.

Dapto High School has been innovative in working around its financial restrictions, implementing a BYOD policy and providing devices to students who couldn't bring their own. The school is always looking for new ways to add to its edtech offering.

Key considerations

Dapto High School was looking for an interactive, front of class solution which would enable its teachers to make the most of the school's BYOD policy, whilst also delivering significant value when used independently of other technologies.

The school was keen to increase its students' access to interactive technologies, and recognised the Promethean ActivPanel as the perfect solution. Kelly Mathein, a teacher at Dapto High School, entered the Promethean Grant as an opportunity to win the school's first ActivPanel.

Kelly's ActivPanel made such an impact in the classroom that the school is now looking for ways to finance future investments, although much of its budget is put towards other essential resources.

Why the ActivPanel?

Kelly was quick to get started with her ActivPanel, and was determined to find as much value in it as possible. Through the ActivPanel, Kelly was able to access educational apps such as quizzes and escape-room puzzles as well as built-in tools like the Spinner - all of which immediately contributed to more energetic and engaging lessons.

The ActivPanel's multi-touch functionality also proved to be a popular feature at Dapto High School. Kelly explained: "The fact that multiple students can come and interact with the ActivPanel at the same time is brilliant for collaboration. We use it to share ideas, encourage discussion and facilitate peer to peer review sessions."

Kelly also discussed the visual element of the ActivPanel, explaining that the simple nature of having such a clear and bright screen makes a big difference to the classroom dynamic.

"In the past, we've conducted most of our activities on paper, with each student requiring a handout. Now, I can share visual content from the front of the class and it is clearer than ever. It really brings lessons to life, no matter what we're studying."

Kelly works with a number of students who are on the autistic spectrum, who are especially enthusiastic about the ActivPanel. She has found the ActivPanel to be invaluable in engaging these students and encouraging them to participate and communicate with the rest of the class when they might otherwise not have the confidence.

"The ActivPanel has made a huge difference for us, both on a day-to-day level and in planning quality lesson content in the longer term. I'm seeing more engagement in the classroom, and a real passion for learning in all of my students - it's truly an amazing resource,"

Kelly Mathein



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