OFFICER SECONDARY COLLEGE

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SEVR   METRO

Read about how Officer Secondary College has continued to focus on high quality assessment practices during remote learning, including running standardised tests this year

Officer Secondary College (OSC) decided to stick to its focus on high quality assessment practices when remote learning began in 2020.

Teachers were supported in this work through assessment guidance and an updated meeting schedule to provide allocated time for professional learning in assessment. The allocated tiem was used by teachers to work together to assess student learning using a school-developed proficiency scale and to collaborate and plan in teaching teams.

These supports in assessment align with the Officer SC Reporting Guide which was developed as a collaboration between the Year 7-9 Curriculum Leader, Assistant Principal – Curriculum and Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning. The Guide clarified assessment and reporting expectations and outlined the roles and responsibilities of teachers and the Leadership Team in the assessment and reporting process. OSC has prioritised recognising successes during remote learning, in order to motivate students to stick with the learning program despite the challenges of a pandemic. This included emailing students personalised certificates in some cases when assessment tasks were submitted.

Compass, used by the school prior to the first period of remote learning, has supported the development, delivery and submission of assessment tasks, as has Microsoft 365. For example, Microsoft Forms are used in the development of quizzes; and One Note and Teams are used to document learnings, give feedback and submit assessment in the form of videos.

Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) have been run in 2020 and 2021, with the 2021 tests run remotely. Though this has presented challenges, for acting assistant principal Skye Blyth, it's been too important to defer: "As a College, we wanted to ensure we maintained high expectations around assessment practices, while also valuing the importance of providing a regular routine for students through the continuation of PAT assessments based on the College assessment schedule."

Administration of the tests has involved setting a specific time for students to sit each test, providing students with a link to access each test, allocating a time limit for each test, and having tutor and technical support on hand. Information regarding the administration of PAT provided via letters to students and their parents/carers and was posted on Compass, which included links to the tests.

Students have now been emailed their scores and have worked with their teachers to set a growth goal for the months ahead. Teachers have seen the benefits. As Literacy and Numeracy Leader, Tracey Ferguson, reflects: "PAT data is communicated to students so that they are aware of their current literacy and numeracy levels, understand the importance of the classwork that will enable them to see growth, set goals, and measure their progress through the testing process."

Staff have also been provided with the scores, which has informed several initiatives including Middle Years Literacy and Numeracy (MYLNS), Tutor Learning and tier two interventions. For Tracey, "PAT data testing allows timely identification of students who are struggling with their literacy or numeracy. From there we triangulate our data to enact interventions from our Response to Intervention Model based on point of need for each student". This process also applies to high achieving students: "PAT data is also shared with our high achieving students, to enable them to set goals for reading and writing levels, crucial in enabling them to maintain high standards of achievement".

LINKS

- Officer Secondary College Reporting Guide 2021
- Officer Secondary College PAT Parent Letter
- Officer Secondary College PAT Staff Email
- Officer Secondary College PAT Student Letter

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