SELP Case Study Summary: Advanced Technologies Ambassador Program and STEM Research Project Class.

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Purpose:

The purpose of my Aspiring Leaders Case Study has two elements. Part A, was how I could use the knowledge and experience of both past and current Advanced Technologies students to inform future/prospective Advanced Technologies students. Part B, was with the introduction of Stage 2 Advanced Technologies, how could I provide a smooth transition for students in Year 11 as there is no Advanced Technologies subject at this year level.

Student cohort /Audience:

Year 9-12 students including both current and previous Advanced Technologies students as well as recommended Year 9 students wishing to select Advanced Technologies in Year 10 in 2015.

Activity description:

Part A – Advanced Technologies Ambassador Mentor Session.

During early term 3, subject selection time at Henley High School, I held a mentoring session for current Year 9 students that I had identified through academic data from terms 1 and 2 as well as verbal recommendations from their Maths, Science and Design and Technology teachers. The session ran for 30 minutes with approximately 30-40 year 9 students attending.

Part B – STEM Research Project Class

As part of Year 10 Advanced Technologies to Year 12 (Stage 2) Advanced Technologies transition I proposed that there be a STEM based mentor class that incorporated research project at year 11. Currently at Henley High School, Research Project is taught in second semester and is grouped randomly with lots of different topic areas amongst the classes. My proposal was to incorporate an Advanced Technologies Research Project class in which students could choose a STEM related topic in which they would have access to more relevant resources and equipment.

What were the outcomes?

Part A – Advanced Technologies Ambassador Mentor Session.

The session provided valuable information to the year 9 students and they got a lot out of asking the students questions about their experiences.

Part B – STEM Research Project Class

I wasn’t able to trial this concept this year as group as it was too late for 2014 as classes were already formed and timetables were put in place. I did trial this STEM research project with one student and I have mentored him throughout his research project which was to create a human habitat for life on mars. The STEM Research Project Class has been formed for on the back of my recommendation. Another aspect of this is that other curriculum areas are also now creating Research Project/Mentor Groups based on which area they would like to focus their Research project topics.

Identified issues and change for the future:

Part A – Advanced Technologies Ambassador Mentor Session.

Some of the issues during the planning and presenting of the Mentor Session were:

Timing – Rather than early term 3, run Mentoring session in late term 2 so year 9 students have the holidays to plan their subjects with relevant information.

Recommendation Process – I made an options within Term 2 reports for Maths, Science and Design and Technology teachers to recommend students for Advanced Technologies. This process didn’t occur so I had to analysis report data manually which was extremely time consuming.

Part B – STEM Research Project Class

Some of the issues during the planning of the STEM Research Project class were:

Timing – Year 10 students would need to be alerted to this option during subject selection time (late term 2) so that they could enter this as a prefer option for Year 11.