



AVONDALE
COLLEGE

INNOVATION PROGRAMME

AVONDALE COLLEGE'S INNOVATION PROGRAMME IS FORGING NEW GROUND IN ICT EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND – WITH EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS.

In 2013 an Avondale College student topped the world in his Cambridge ICT exam – with two of his fellow Avondale classmates just one and two percentage points behind.

In 2014 three Avondale students beat 750,000 global contestants to compete in the Microsoft Office Specialist World Champs. All three gained top-ten placings.

In the same year an Avondale student came first in New Zealand in Cambridge Applied ICT.

This year Avondale College students have blitzed the Microsoft national champs, and six finalists are heading to the world champs in the USA.

It's a strategy that is already gaining results. Not only are they gaining NZQA, CIE, MOS and HP certifications alongside a proven-experience portfolio that will see them "hit the ground running" in any corporate digital environment, but Avondale College students are making headlines as they win national and international awards in IT.

The wider implications of this success are promising - not only for the individual students themselves, but for the future of New Zealand innovation in a globally competitive marketplace.

RATIONALE

In a world of increasingly rapid multi-dimensional change, New Zealand's skills shortage, particularly in ICT, is well-documented.

"We recognise that success in the world is increasingly influenced by new knowledge, industries and technical advances," says Avondale College Principal, Brent Lewis.

"Our ability to develop the talent of those who will become our future generators of intellectual property, products and services is critical to how we [New Zealand] will compete in the global marketplace."

The Innovation Programme is providing an exciting alternative to more traditional ICT education paradigms, and by fostering a culture of innovation, seeks to not only transform the current proposition, but add tremendous value while doing so.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Enabling the success of these world-class students is Avondale College's ground-breaking Innovation Programme.

Now in its second year (following a pilot in 2013), the programme aims to bridge a widening gap between ICT education and the digital marketplace. A philosophy of knowledge-creation and innovative practice as opposed to teacher-led 'textbook' lessons allows students in the programme to use sophisticated, industry-standard technology to create their own market-ready applications, as well as gain educational qualifications and industry-benchmarked certifications along the way.

The development of strategic relationships with industry partners is also key to the success of the programme, through which innovative practice is becoming imbedded within the school, further helping students to gain real-world success across all curriculum areas.



"What Avondale is doing is offering the students a direct path into the digital technology industry, which is an exciting career option and a great advantage."

Evan Blackman, Education Sector Manager,
Microsoft New Zealand



**meet
di kun ong,
jayden cooke
& darius au**

Having topped New Zealand in the 2014 Microsoft Office Specialist championships, Di Kun, Jayden and Darius then represented their country at the World Champs in the USA. All three returned with top-10 placings in their applications, adding this to their already impressive CV.

Di Kun Ong: 10th in World MOS Champs 2014
Jayden Cooke: 3rd in World (Bronze medalist) MOS Championships 2014; Microsoft Office Master; 2nd in World CIE Applied ICT 2013; 1st in NZ Applied ICT A Level 2014

Darius Au: 1st in World CIE Applied ICT 2013; 6th in World MOS World Champs 2014; Microsoft Office Master.



innovation
programme

HOW IT WORKS

The Innovation Programme operates as a real-world preparation environment, with students 'clocking in', ready to work, at 8.00am each day. Saturday clinics and school holiday workshops further bolster the boutique, positive and development-focused environment.

Inside the classroom students are immersed in interdisciplinary problems and empowered to create innovation. As a result, quality academic performance is achieved and innovation flourishes because students use higher order thinking to manage complex issues while solving ambiguous real-world business, community or social problems.

"We put the students in an environment that encourages them to be creative, explore concepts, use a range of critical thinking skills, get to grips with the problem, analyse it and come up with a range of ways to solve it," says Innovation Programme Director, Paul McClean.

"That freedom to be creative is fantastic. We take the students through the project and watch them exploring ideas, learning from potential mistakes and moving forward in different directions as they harness the information," he says.

The results speak for themselves. In addition to their NCEA, CIE and industry qualifications, students are able to demonstrate proven completion of exciting real-world innovation projects with practical applications, market-ready ICT experience and advanced skills for future employers.

LOOKING FORWARD

The exciting vision of the Innovation Programme goes well beyond the classrooms of Avondale College to a future where strategic partnerships help develop innovation processes that tap into developing market potential, as well as organising facilities and freedoms to generate New Zealand talent for new market creation...

It's a vision with which key industry partners are proving keen to engage. Strategic partners HP are working with the college to develop a state-of-the-art 'Incubation Hub' facility where leading edge software and unprecedented education digital capability (enabled by Lexel) will jettison the Innovation Programme's answer to 21st century sector issues into uncharted territory. Watch this space.

FIND OUT MORE:

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VIDEOS & PUBLICATIONS

Links to videos and articles can be found on the Avondale College website:
www.avcol.school.nz/learning/innovation_programme.aspx

Innovation Programme video

Students discussing Innovation Programme at CIO conference 2014:

TVNZ interview: Kiwi students head to Disneyland for Microsoft Competition

NZ Herald: School moves to protect rights to student-designed apps

NZ Herald: Cracking the code - schools get kids programming

Baobin Deng: Case study

App-building Avondale students head to Microsoft Office world champs

CREATIVITY. INNOVATION. SOLUTION.
DIFFERENTIATION.
OUTCOME.



meet patricia salcedo

In 2014, Patricia (a Microsoft Certified Professional) developed a home budgeting app using Microsoft Visual Studio.net. She evaluated transformations to socio-economic affairs using systems thinking in order to qualify, generate and successfully implement the solution.

"Avondale College has long positioned itself as a leader in the education space. We are pleased to be able to support its innovative vision and collaborate to create a 21st Century learning environment, leveraging the combination of our local and global capability and experience."

Keith Watson, Managing Director,
HP New Zealand



meet baobin deng

Baobin characterised the quality of the student-led software development projects, where students used visualstudio.net to deliver high quality Level 3 NCEA projects (some while only in Year 9 and 10). Baobin's innovation was featured in the New Zealand Herald, with news then travelling on major global news engines – including to China People.com, and 700,000 Chinese readers!

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