

Kylie Taig wins Victorian Microsoft Innovative Teachers Award



For Kylie Taig, a Year 7 to 9 maths and science teacher at Carey Baptist Grammar School in Melbourne, technology has helped to align her teaching methods with the school's one-on-one teaching philosophy.

By using Microsoft's OneNote – which is bundled with Microsoft Office – to build content rich, interactive eNotebooks, Ms Taig has freed herself up to give more time to all of her students.

“Because the other 26 students in the class are engaged and working I can spend more individual time with everyone,” she says.

The eNotebooks are packed with podcasts, video, screen clippings and text, which suit them to any pace of learning.

“Weaker students are kept interested with the videos and the more able learners can find plenty of rich content there.”

Students don't spend time writing notes, instead they learn by exploring websites, listening to screencasts, marking up documents, participating in online quizzes and drawing mind maps.

“The eNotebooks' interface allows content to be easily gathered and accessed from a centralised point,” Ms Taig says.

She says that learning to use OneNote was hassle free – the layout and tools provided are designed to be intuitive – and that the students picked it up scarily quickly.

“The eNotebooks have been such a hit that we're rolling them out across the school. eNotebooks have been developed for our Civic Week Program, PE and one is being put together for English, as we speak,” Ms Taig says.

For her efforts, she has won the 2010 Microsoft Innovative Teachers Awards for Victoria. She will represent Victoria at the Microsoft Regional Innovative Education Forum in Thailand in March 2011, where she'll have the chance to be selected as the national winner to represent Australia at the Worldwide Microsoft Innovative Teachers Conference later in the year. Run annually, the Microsoft Innovative Teacher Awards give a nod to teachers who are getting the most out of technology. It doesn't have to be fancy or expensive, just clever and student centred.

“OneNote has been very successful in education. Teachers like OneNote because it's based on the paradigm of a book, but with richer, colourful



Carey Baptist Grammar School in Melbourne is rolling out eNotebooks across the school

animated content,” says Microsoft's Academic Programs Manager Jane Mackarell.

“Teachers can use the OneNote technology in class or online which streamlines education. We're impressed when young passionate teachers like Kylie use technology as a tool to motivate their students,” Ms Mackarell says.

There's a plethora of user driven, often free, educational software available for download from Microsoft, such as Kodu games development software based on the programming language used by the Xbox.

“Kodu is icon based and very easy to use so students will very quickly be developing clever applications. It's just one of the products we've developed in consultation with educators and made available free,” she says.

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