LEAP into…Design

Mystery Box Challenges Students Across the State

Students from LEAP priority school Edenhope College participated in a ‘Mystery Box’ design challenge against a metropolitan Melbourne school, using Polycom video collaboration technology.

From their school in Edenhope, Year 7 students linked with students located at the National Gallery of Victoria via video conference. Both groups were given a box of the same surprise materials and brief to complete a design activity.

Students found it new and challenging to create and design using limited materials, with one student commenting “It could make something out of nothing by just being creative and using my imagination”.

94.4% of students found that activity interesting and enjoyable, while 77.8% of students maintained or increased their interest in going to university, with 23.3% of students reported an increased interest in a career in the design profession.

Several students commented that this activity opened their eyes to using technology to interact with other schools, with one student saying “us country kids can keep up with the city kids and have as good facilities as in the city”.

Legal Studies Workshop Day One Review

The first LEAP into… Law Legal Studies and Australian Politics (LSAP) event ran on over three Saturdays (20th April, 4th and 21st May) at Victoria University (Melbourne).

28 students from the LSAP priority schools attended the event at Victoria University’s Queen Street campus eager to start the first day. After a few ice breaker activities students completed a quiz to test their memory, general knowledge and expertise in the legal and political arenas.

Following lunch students were introduced to the various areas of law, that can be studied and practiced in, from contract and family to alternative dispute resolution. Students were then introduced to basic concepts relating to the constitution, as a set of rules all students: completing a formal law qualification must study to be eligible to practise in Australia.

Students took part in debating workshops and were challenged to speak without notes or much preparation about simple topics, which will lead into more substantial debates later in the program. The final part of the day was devoted to one of the key parts of a legal professional's job, negotiation. Acting for various villains from the TV show 'Captain Planet', teams had properties and money to trade and negotiate with amongst each other, trying to get the biggest payday for their clients.

Students returned to the second and third day, re-joining their teams for further activities.

After the three days, 88.3% of students agreed that the activity interesting and enjoyable, while 60.6% of participants said that the LSAP had increased their interest in a career in the law profession.

Of the students were more interested in attending university after attending the event.

Students commented that the LSAP was: “really fun to learn without doing theory work”, and “a fun experience and insight into the study of law. Wish it were longer!”

Check out the LEAP Law Activities pages for future events like these.

Hospital Experience Sunshine Hospital

LEAP into…Health

Health was extremely grateful to the Sunshine Hospital for hosting their first “Hospital Experience” of 2013 on 26th June. The LEAP priority school students from Catholic Regional College, St Alban’s, Copperfield College, Springdale College and Sunshine College gained a unique hands-on experience in a real hospital setting.

Students spent time in the teaching facilities of Victoria University and the University of Melbourne which are based in the hospital. These facilities provided an excellent space for students to interact and discover what the Health profession has to offer.

A key part of the event was the high level of interaction the school students had with current university students, who spoke about their studies and their current course.

Another highlight of the day was having a behind the scenes tour of the hospital lead by medical students. Following an imaginary patient from Emergency to a Ward gave students a real insight into the different health professions involved in patient care and the understanding of the high level of teamwork required.

Of the school students attending, 93% agreed that the event increased their knowledge of the different jobs in the health profession. 89% agreed they now had a greater interest in a career in the health professions.

When asked if they had an improved understanding of what studying at university involved, 96% agreed. Students attending valued the opportunity to learn about options and pathways to the health profession, with 96% agreeing.

Students commented that “the most important thing is that not everyone realizes how the hospital and in health professions” and “there is more than one pathway that you can go in everyone realises how many jobs there are in the hospital and in health profession, with 93% agreeing.

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One student described discovering links between their learning at school and future careers: “The most important thing I learned from the activity was the importance of my studies, particularly in Physics and Maths Methods. This activity has given me more motivation to become an Engineer and to get into university.”

86% of students expressed that participating in the ELP has increased their interest in a career in the Engineering profession.

Engineering Experience

On June 17th, Year 9 and 10 students from schools in the Geelong area attended the Geelong ‘Engineering Experience’ day held at Deakin University’s Waurn Ponds campus. Attending students learned about the diverse range of engineering careers and enjoyed some practical hands on workshops in electronic engineering, mechanical engineering, software engineering and IT.

The session concluded with current students from different partner universities speaking of their study experiences in their chosen engineering field and the decision making they went through in pursuing their education to university. They also spoke about what it is like to study at university and where they are headed after they complete their studies.

Students commented:

“Engineering seems fun and would be pretty good to have a career in.”

“There are a lot more career opportunities in engineering than I thought.”

Check out the LEAP Engineering Activities pages for future events like these.