

Dear College Community

In recent discussions the Board has been considering a number of curriculum issues including the validity of NCEA Level 1 and the place of ICT and Digital learning skills in the College's curriculum. In order to consider such matters the Board must first consider the College's Curriculum vision which must fit with the College's overall Vision, Mission and Purpose as stated in the College's Strategic Statement.

Vision

Scots College will have a national and international reputation for excellence and realising the all-round potential of each young man.

Mission Statement

To provide our students with an excellent and holistic education that allows them to contribute as global citizens who think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and develop the necessary skills to Learn. For life.

Purpose

Scots College was established by the Presbyterian Church and remains affiliated to the Church. It's **purpose** is to give each young man a lifelong commitment to learning and to provide the environment in which he can achieve his academic, spiritual, physical, cultural and social potential for the greater good and in service to others.

Background

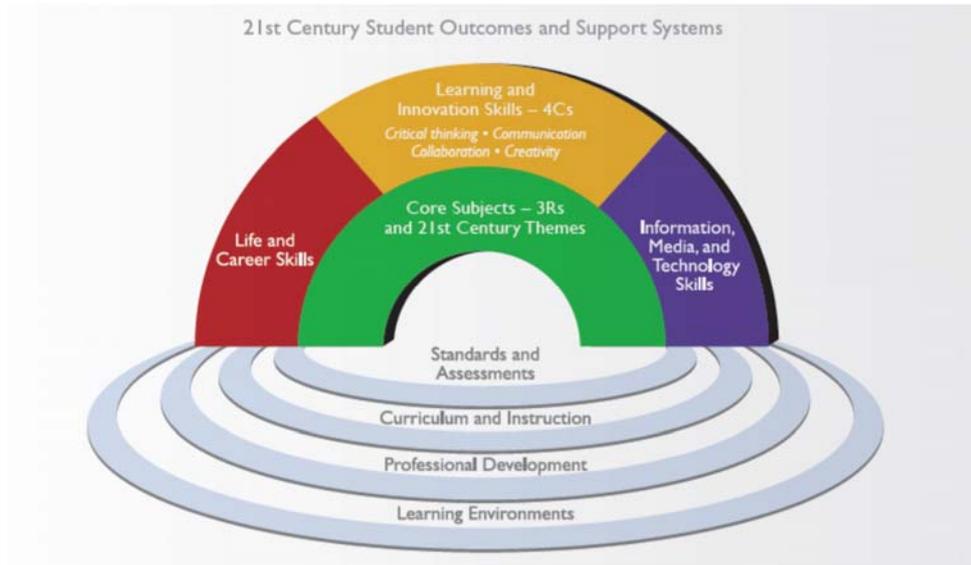
In the strategic statement the College has the following goals for **Educational Excellence**:

To maximize the learning potential of each student by providing rigorous academic programs, accessible to all students that are global, use the latest technologies and are delivered using best practice and the best available resources. A Scots education will prepare its young men to be lifelong learners.

Three elements must be considered in partnership when considering academic excellence:

1. WHAT – The curriculum we deliver
2. WHERE – The facilities and resources we use to deliver the curriculum
3. HOW – The pedagogy used to deliver the curriculum

The following model encapsulates the delivery of these elements. Our curriculum sits at the core and includes life and career skills, learning and innovation skills and ICT skills. The delivery of this is reflected in the way we assess, our method of instruction (pedagogy), supported by professional development and the design of learning spaces.



In order to achieve academic excellence we need to develop the **learning culture** of Scots College

Learning culture needs:

Student engagement:

Promote student engagement with a focus on attendance, motivation, self-belief, a disposition to learning, perseverance, problem-solving and performance, enhanced by positive student-teacher relationships, equitable distribution of resources and less stratification of students

Teacher partnership in reform:

Enable a relentless, practical focus on learning, and a strong culture of teacher openness, research and learning

Professional learning: Implement formal induction, feedback, professional development and mentoring systems for all levels of teachers with systems that are primarily focused on improving student outcomes

Positive teaching climate: Promote teacher involvement in decision-making, the use of active teaching practice, teacher cooperation and collaboration, and opportunities to improve teachers' classroom management

Value-added educational measures:

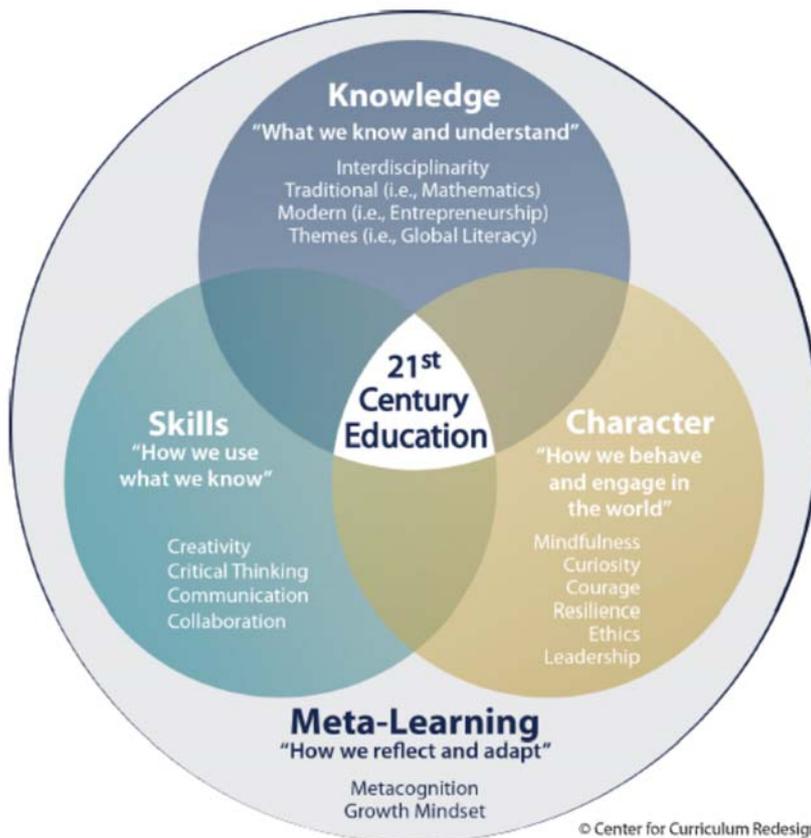
Track educational performance and provide the technology that empowers this as a key focus of strategies to improve instruction and programs

Distributed instructional leadership:

Prepare teachers to enter school leadership through formal training programs and support distributed school leadership and instructional leadership, especially in building school professional learning plans, identifying and implementing essential outcomes for all students, holding students, staff and parents accountable for outcomes, encouraging and coaching teachers to use teaching strategies that improve educational outcomes for all students and assessing student progress in important areas

Improved accountability: Augment cultural change with increasing trend towards regulation in terms of teacher qualifications, professional standards, conduct and behaviour

Justification



Given the establishment of the learning culture and environment as outlined above a 21C education will reinforce the learning of knowledge via **interdisciplinary** themes across traditional subjects. This is a core component of the IB programs.

Importantly in the time of great change that we live in the focus of our learning at the College should focus on providing students the necessary **skills** that they will require to face this ever changing future.

In addition to knowledge our curriculum will develop **character** which seeks to provide students a basis of how they will behave in the world.

At Scots College we recognise that the curriculum is broad and not defined solely by what is taught in the classroom. We judge the areas of EOTC, sport, culture, service, leadership and Chapel life as having equal legitimacy in educating our students.

What does this mean for students at Scots College?

As a College we will:

1. Continue to provide an holistic education that builds character and citizenship based on Presbyterian values
2. Use the latest pedagogy to foster educational outcomes
3. Continue to invest in staff professional development
4. Develop the Campus to provide excellent facilities to support teaching and learning
5. Evaluate the usefulness of various qualifications to ensure that assessment does not drive learning
6. Develop programs which allow us to realise the potential of each and every student
7. Seek to develop real world experiences which reinforce learning
8. Recognise the importance of a global perspective for our learners futures
9. Create programs that are interdisciplinary, creative, collaborative and foster critical thinking
10. Continue to focus on educational excellence

Graeme Yule

Headmaster