

Case Study

Heathmont College - iPodagogy

The results of a research project has found that using iPods as a mobile learning tool has a significant and beneficial effect on student learning and teacher interactions. The concept of using iPods to enhance student learning is known as “iPodagogy”.

Quick Study

Challenges	Outcomes	Solution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase student motivation and learning Align teacher pedagogy with emerging technologies Increase the use of ICT in the classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved behaviour, motivation and organisational skills Increased student performance and test scores Greater levels of high-order thinking and deeper reflection Increased skill diversity and ICT use for life-long learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studywiz and iPods Active learning Innovative use of video podcasting and podcasting Access anywhere, anytime

iPods in the Classroom

Teachers and students at Heathmont College in Australia have piloted a research project incorporating the use of iPods as a means of enhancing student learning. iPods were integrated into the classroom through Studywiz, which enabled the creation of media rich content and iPod Synchronisation.

The research project investigated the potential of using iPods to engage and stimulate students in a cross curriculum approach, and also examined whether iPodagogy could improve teachers’ use of ICT in the classroom.

A class of twenty-five Year 8 students and six teachers were each given an iPod to integrate across the core curriculum areas; these include English, Social Studies, Maths, Science, Music, German, Health and PE.

Teachers and students participating in the trial were able to undertake a range of new teaching and learning techniques using iPods. For example, teachers used podcasts to explain complicated mathematical calculations and students created video podcasts for observation and reflection on science experiments. One teacher observed, “It changed the way I think about my teaching, about how technology can be used to recall and manage what students learn.”

Video podcasts were even used to enhance teaching and learning in practical areas such as PE. Video podcasts demonstrating cricket techniques were used for student analysis and skill development.

Students said they found it easier to understand and comprehend information when using iPods and video podcasting. The use of iPods also enabled students to concentrate more on complicated topics for longer periods of time. One student commented, “If I didn’t understand it I went over and over it until I understood.”

As a result, work output increased as students enjoyed using the new technology, and the diversity of their skills increased. Teachers reported that students using iPods had progressed faster than the other Year 8 classes, and behaviour and motivation were other key areas identified as having improved.

Studywiz enabled students to access classwork out of school, extending learning from school to home. More than half the students logged in to Studywiz outside school hours, some as often as once a night; and many students submitted classwork from home. One student remarked, “I could submit all my projects with Studywiz, teachers put up bulletins and reminders and discussions. I loved it!”

Cecilie Murray, Project Coordinator from Delphian eLearning, said the project enabled students to use emerging technologies which are engaging and motivating and prevalent in their lives outside of school.

“What the research reveals is that emerging technologies have the potential to change teacher pedagogy to a learner-centred approach that alters the relationship dynamics and promotes greater levels of higher-order thinking by students, in classrooms and at home,” she said.

Similar trials in Scotland and the USA, on the use of iPods, further support the findings that there is a positive impact on student learning. Studywiz combined with the mobile technology increases communication between teachers and students and provides access to schoolwork anywhere, anytime.

For further information on Studywiz visit **www.studywiz.com**