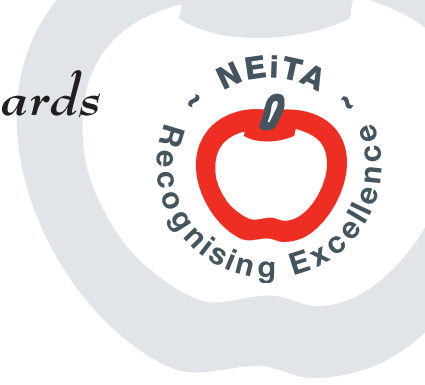


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Kristy Thomson

Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education
Pittsworth State High School, Pittsworth, Queensland
Nominated by: Parents and Citizens' Association

Position: Head of Department (Languages) • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Junior & Senior English teacher • Years teaching: 14 years • Years at this school/centre: 9 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Pittsworth • State: Queensland • Postcode: 4356

Why teaching?

I think the inspiration came mostly from the realisation (coming from a small-town, working-class background) that education has the greatest capacity to change lives. I very much wanted to play a role in social change - to do a job that I felt would make a difference.

It is seeing the role we play in changing the way our students see themselves, as people and learners, that maintains my enthusiasm for teaching.

Fostering a love of language and literature

Working in a rapidly growing rural high school, Kristy Thomson strives to foster a greater regard for language and literature. As Head of the Languages Department, she demonstrates an infectious love of the English language that has inspired many students. Kristy also tries to illuminate the possibilities offered by further education and university as a means of encouraging a love of learning among her students.

Kristy uses many techniques to bring the English language to life. She organises educational excursions such as visits to the Brisbane Writers' Festival or theatrical performances of relevant texts. As one of the school's debating coaches, Kristy dedicates many extra hours to assisting the debating teams, and she is always willing to provide extra tuition to any student, especially senior English pupils. Kristy has organised the school's own writing competitions and reading challenges, and runs a committee of students to produce the annual Year Book.

A keen interest in the education of boys has led Kristy to trial single sex classes. In an effort to increase the number of boys taking on senior English, she now runs a year 10 boys only English class. She has had to tailor her resources and learning environment to cater for the specific gender needs of boys. Her class aims to develop their regard for their own strengths and creativity, and develop a culture that is proud of success. The school pass rate for boys studying English is 79 per cent while in Kristy's classes the pass rate is 95 per cent. Across the school, 43 per cent of boys achieve a B grading or better, while in Kristy's year 10 boys class, 65 per cent of her students obtained a B or higher grading.

Kristy is described as the kind of teacher who will always go that extra step to help her students succeed and, as such, is held in the highest regard by students, parents and her fellow teachers.

Contact details:

Principal: Mr Anthony Kennedy
Phone: 07 4619 8111

Teacher: Kristy Thomson
Phone: 07 4619 8111
Email: kthom3@eq.edu.au

For further information, please contact:

Janet Thomas, Public Relations, ASG on behalf of the NEiTA Foundation.
Telephone: (03) 9276 7758 Mobile: 0402 837 758 Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au

NEiTA is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited
ABN 21 087 648 879 Head Office: 23-35 Hanover Street Oakleigh Victoria 3166
Telephone: (03) 9276 7768 Facsimile: (03) 9276 7798 Website: www.asg.com.au or www.neita.com.au

Proudly supported by



**Australian
Scholarships
Group**

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION