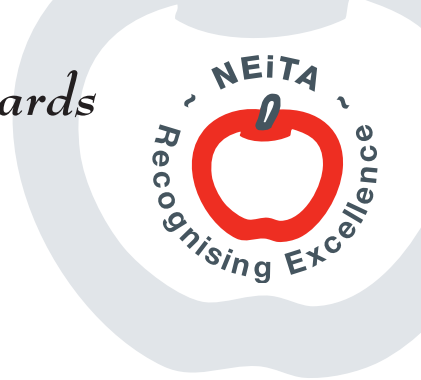


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Philip Allen

Bachelor of Arts, Diploma of Teaching
Perth Modern School, Subiaco, Western Australia
Nominated by: School Council

Position: Head of English Learning Area • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Year 8-12 • Years teaching: 34 years • Years at this school: 5 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Subiaco • State: Western Australia • Postcode: 6008

Why teaching?

I was inspired to enter the teaching profession because of my love for literature, and whilst that has remained unchanged, what maintains my enthusiasm is the quality of the relationships that I have with my students, colleagues and wider school community, as well as the opportunity, as Head of English, to develop richly innovative programs that stretch gifted students.

Applying the benefits of a negotiated curriculum

Perth Modern School is a specialist school for gifted and talented students. The school's mission is to provide cutting edge learning for very able pupils. Students work within a differentiated curriculum designed to enable students to achieve their personal best.

As Head of the English Learning Area at Perth Modern School, Philip Allen championed the development of a negotiated curriculum for year 10 students. Now in place, the curriculum allows students to choose English subjects that appeal to them from a suite of possible units. The exciting range of units was developed by the teachers in response to the increasingly diverse patterns of thinking and ever widening interests of the students. With this new negotiated curriculum, teachers are now teaching subjects from within their own areas of expertise and passion, while students are able to select the topics that reflect their interests. The Unit titles themselves afford glimpses into the kinds of territories that are explored such as Heroes and Villains, Gothic Horror; Breaking the Rules, Public Speaking, Aesthetics and Creativity, and Journalism.

Philip keeps very detailed data on the progress of the students under this new curriculum. Since the curriculum's inception, grade averages have begun to rise. In a group that was already achieving high results, the findings are even more spectacular. The 60 per cent of students who were obtaining an A grading in English in year 9, rose to a staggering 84 per cent under the new, year 10 English program.

With 34 years experience, Philip is still a very innovative teacher. As well as the new negotiated curriculum, he has introduced many new information and communication technologies to the school. His English students can review their lessons through web logs and vetted web links. He has invested in electronic smart boards to take advantage of his students' high levels of information and technology skills.

Philip has worked as a Teacher Development Centre coordinator, a TEE Literature marker, an English moderator, and has twice been a member of TEE Literature examining panels. He is widely recognised by both his students and peers as an outstanding educator.

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