What is a transition year and why is it necessary?

The Year 10 course in Queensland schools plans, teaches, assesses and reports on the Australian Curriculum for the subjects English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, The Arts and Health and Physical Education. All subjects, core and elective prepare students for the more rigorous and challenging curriculum of the Senior School.

The purpose of the Year 10 course is to maintain a focus on the capabilities and knowledge that students need to:

- Grow and manage themselves
- Become active participants in their own learning journey
- Participate in local and global contexts in the future
What is in store for my Year 10 daughter in 2015?

Students should be putting their best foot forward this Semester

The academic opportunities of the Senior School are largely informed by the results the students receive on their end of Semester 1 reports for Year 10. This has been communicated to the students on a number of occasions this year. Students will be choosing their subjects for the Senior School in the second part of this year.
Future Pathways sessions during POS ED

The students have been involved in two sessions this term in focusing on their Future Pathways.

The Program Leader - Future Pathways has developed a career program as part of the Positive Education curriculum at Mt St Michael's. It is delivered during the course of Semester One for all year 10 students.

**Term One**

_The first session_

The focus for this semester has been 'the importance of setting goals and having a plan to achieve ambitions'. This will open the door to the students’ future pathways.

Students have been introduced to the Senior Career Planning Journal which they will work with for the next 3 years. It is a document that forms part of their SET Planning process and future career conversations in examining their Future Pathways post year 12.

The Senior Schooling Program Leader empowered students to shift their focus to ‘obtain personal excellence in all areas of learning’, to achieve their personal best for first semester results. First Semester results can direct and inform the choices they are offered to take on their future pathways.

_The second session_

The focus shifted to how a student might decide on a career or a Future Pathway Plan. The 5 principles of Career Development were revised with the focus on the first criteria of “know yourself and believe in yourself”. Students were shown how they can make decisions based on their research using the occupation profiles and posters hyperlinked in their journal.

By the end of this session students should have been more aware through a practical demonstration by the presenters as to how to use their strengths to actually chase their dreams. This key point was demonstrated in a role play between the presenters where a young 17 year old girl decided she wanted to pursue an acting career. She arrived at the audition and the Director challenged her to think on her feet, to solve problems, to show her understanding of the play. What she learns through the Director's feedback is that she won the part based on her resilience, her ability to listen to feedback and make changes, follow direction, reveal honesty in her performance. She succeeded because she wasn’t afraid to keep trying.

**Term Two**

Themes for sessions for Future Pathways

_Leaving a digital Footprint_ - students need to be socially aware of how they ‘brand themselves’ in all settings.

_My Personal Brand_ - Employment Preparation-strengths and stretching themselves, developing a resume and cover letter.

_Career Match_ - online student career assessment

_Futures Conference_ - an exciting full day event with inspirational guest speakers and breakout sessions - 17 June

**Term Three**

SET Plan Interview

This is an interview process about which you will be well communicated.
Parents and their role in the learning process of developing Independent Learners

Our role together in partnership as parents and school is to support students in dealing with the increased expectations to take greater responsibility for their learning, participate in leadership and community activities, and to engage with the greater complexity of more disciplinary-based or technical subjects.

Support your daughter to take control

Distractions are everywhere and it is very easy for adolescents to use social media sites to procrastinate during homework/study times. Mental discipline or ‘academic grit’ is needed for students to focus on homework and keep their craving for checking social media updates under control. ‘Deliberate practice’ (Ericson 2011) is required for students to excel at their studies. Teenagers need help to learn these skills! You are best placed to help her in this regard.

- Help your daughter to create a realistic study plan
- Ensure all dates for rough drafts and final copies/exams are displayed on a calendar near their study area
  - Encourage girls to ask their teachers questions and attend MSM tutorials (listed below)
  - Set times for phones and laptops to be ‘handed in’ away from study areas/bedrooms
- Supervise and monitor your daughter’s time on sites such as Instagram, Tumblr, Facebook, youtube, shopping sites
  - Encourage ‘good digital citizenship’ and ‘good digital footprints’
- Guide your daughters in cultivating ‘academic grit’- persisting in tasks and being resilient (bouncing back) when things go wrong
  - Encourage healthy sleep habits - 9 hours of sleep a night
- Monitor the hours of sporting/cultural commitments and balance with study time
- Monitor the hours of part-time work each week and balance with study time.

Take advantage of weekly tutorial sessions

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<th>ENGLISH</th>
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Students taking control of their learning journey

Learning Conference - 27 February

The students were treated to some passionate educators from the company Elevate Education during the last week of February. The focus of the Conference was on Study skills, in particular, note taking. Teaching students to break down information into relevant parts, organize their work and time early in preparation for exams and to work towards being effective Learners.

Learning Conference - Student reflections

“It was helpful. It gave us more ideas on how to study and ultimately to improve our marks.”
Sophie Strickland

“Tips and advice were very realistic and something practical for us to follow”
Mia Bennie

“They had wide appeal to a broad range of students”
Sidney Hunwick

“What we don’t know now about note-taking isn’t worth knowing”
Jade Madden

“It was quite insightful and offered us ‘real-world study habits using examples from top Queensland students”
Georgina Devenish-Meares

“They looked at a progression of improvement that could have application to all students no matter what their ability was”
Sophia Cassidy

“The presenters were passionate about Learning and study and it was very motivational”
Morgan Drought
Students gain access to Elevate Education support website through a unique username and password following their Elevate session. www.elevateeducation.com contains a range of resources students can access after the seminar. These include:

- A copy of Elevate’s best selling guide, Science of Student Success written by the company’s founder, Doug Barton. The book retails in bookstores for $20 but is FREE for Elevate clients. It is available to download in PDF mode under the tab ‘Books’
- A range of practice papers for each subject
- Video tutorials
- Tips from presenters all around Australia who have recently aced and faced their final years of high school
- Question forum that allows students to have support even after their Elevate session

Student Activity Pack

To access the online website students can use the following username and password:

1. Go to elevateeducation.com
2. Enter username **STUDENT**
3. Type in password **pacco**