

TEACHING AND LEARNING AUDIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – HOME HILL SHS

DATE OF AUDIT: 06-07 MAY 2013



Background:

Home Hill SHS is located in the Burdekin Region approximately one hour south of Townsville. The school has an enrolment of 245 students. The Principal, Mr Steve Miskin was appointed at the beginning of 2013.

Commendations:

- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit there has been an improvement particularly in the domains of Analysis and Use of Data and Systematic Curriculum Delivery.
- The extensive use that is being made of data, Data for Success, to inform the starting points for teaching.
- The significant work that has been done in preparation for the implementation of Junior Secondary including the links that have been made with the primary schools.
- The work that has been undertaken by Heads of Departments (HODs) and staff members in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in English, mathematics, science and history.
- The significant student participation and success in the science and engineering challenge over time.
- The implementation of a five week data cycle in literacy (the use of apostrophes), which has resulted in an improvement across the school.

Affirmations:

- The use of the differentiation template that is being trialled with students, and the differentiation strategies that are being used to support students including the scaffolding and modification of assessment items.
- The articulation of lesson goals that are being made explicit at the beginning of each lesson to focus student learning.
- The development of the Future Focus program that is designed to support senior students at risk of not obtaining a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or a meaningful pathway beyond school.
- The strategies that are being adopted to engage the Indigenous community, for example, the yarning circle.
- The introduction of a program to mentor Year 10 boys in order to enhance their academic and leadership capabilities.
- The comprehensive feedback given to students on assessment items to guide their future improvement.

Recommendations:

- Develop a clear, concise vision for Home Hill SHS that will articulate the future improvement agenda.
- Evaluate and clarify the line management structure to ensure a specific focus on the explicit improvement agenda and to quality assure a consistency of message and practice.
- Develop a common unit planning template to ensure a consistent approach to curriculum across the school.
- Expand the differentiation trial to all classes to ensure individualised and personalised learning for all students including both the low achieving and the high achieving students.
- Continue to develop and implement the pedagogical framework, the Home Hill Way, based on the dimensions of teaching and learning, and support this with a formal process of coaching and mentoring to provide feedback to teachers about their pedagogy.
- Continue to review the senior schooling curriculum to identify the common curriculum elements (CCEs) and identify the CCEs in assessment items to ensure positive outcomes for all students.