



The School of Now, NSW.

*Gavin Hays, Head of Contemporary Learning and Research,
Bethany Center, Parramatta and Steven Bauer, Teacher Educator,
Catholic Education Diocese, Parramatta*

Abstract

School of Now has provided a transformational opportunity to fundamentally revolutionise the nature of teaching and learning experienced by all students within the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. Through addressing innovation and equity it provides students with greater independence, using technology as an enabler, to allow greater student autonomy in the pace, place and participation in their own learning. This case study will explore the pedagogical framework adopted in the design of this blended approach and the enabling resources that support the delivery of synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences for students. Furthermore, we will showcase some insights from teachers and students regarding their experiences in how School of Now champions diversity and equity by affording all students equitable access to a range of stage 6 courses that are not offered by their home school due to constraints in staffing and resourcing these courses. Finally, we will explore what's on the horizon in this work looking at the other opportunities across schools in delivering learning opportunities that meet the personalised needs of our students.



Gavin Hays Biography

Gavin is currently Head of Contemporary Learning and Research within the Catholic Education Catholic Diocese of Parramatta and supports schools as they navigate change in implementing contemporary learning pedagogies and inspecting impact. He has supported schools in implementing and sustaining pedagogical change in the areas of Inquiry Learning, Project and Problem Based Learning, Flipped Learning, Retrieval Practice and STEM.

He has been involved in a number of international training opportunities within the United States, Singapore and Finland. From these opportunities he is an accredited PBL trainer within the New Tech Network and is recognised as a Problem Crafter by Republic Polytechnic in Singapore. In 2019 he completed his doctoral study on developing a new measure for conceptual knowledge under Professor Dr Henk Schmidt at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, co-supervised by Assistant Professor Dr Jerome Rotgans from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Steven Bauer Biography

Steven is currently a Teacher Educator within the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta whose primary role is the administration of, and teaching in, School of Now. With industry experience and Masters in Design, he has moved through fields of adult education prior to settling in a career focussed in the secondary education key learning area of Technology. Currently, Steven is undertaking a Doctorate of Education with Central Queensland University where an examination is being undertaken to determine the value of virtual reality technology as a viable tool for distance education in practical subject areas.

