

Case study: creativity and disengaged young people.



Tahlia McGahey, Principal, Arcadia College, QLD.

Abstract

This presentation explores the effects of arts-based learnings and youth at risk. The literature overwhelmingly asserts that learning through, in and with the Arts has copious benefits for young people and in particular those who are disengaged. Seminal work by Robyn Ewing, James Catterall, Robert Fiske and Anne Bamford demonstrates both the intrinsic and extrinsic benefits of the Arts. Students come to school for the Arts and stay for the rest. As such, it made sense to adopt a philosophy and strategy within a SAS school setting that nurtures the Arts along with the individual needs, interests and abilities of our young people. The College seeks to offer an individualised, inclusive and innovative approach to education, through a variety of unique learning opportunities. Through the lens of the Arts, Project-Based Learning and Adventure-Based Learning, curriculum is delivered in an innovative way, empowering young people to guide their own learning journeys and become successful learners and functioning young adults. The College embeds Arts-based pedagogies within multiple KLAS to engage all students learning.



Biography

Tahlia is from Gold Coast and has been in the Education sector since 2000. Tahlia's career in Education began in Early Childhood, where she spent 8 years, whilst studying her Psychology Degree. After completing this, in 2009, Tahlia began studying Secondary Education at Southern Cross University, majoring in English and Music. In 2014, Tahlia extended her studies, completing a Master of Forensic Mental Health through Griffith University, which extended her passion into Art/Music Therapy through teaching. In 2020, Tahlia became the Principal of Arcadia College, a special assistance school for youth at risk, which she is leading her passion and love for the Arts through embedding this in daily school life. Additionally, Tahlia is a Doctoral Candidate at Southern Cross University, researching the topic of 'School Improvement through the Arts.' Tahlia draws her inspiration from Elliot Eisner; an Arts educator and educational researcher. While Education is one of Tahlia's passions, her love for Country music has encouraged her singing/song-writing career, allowing her to tour in Nashville and produce two albums, one of which was released in 2019. Over the school holidays, Tahlia can be found performing at venues on the Gold Coast as a Country Music Artist.

