**Action Research Project – Year 10, 2012**

*‘The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing’*

Albert Einstein.

Throughout 2012, Year 10 will conduct a Student Action Research Project. The purpose of this project is to provide an opportunity for students to develop character strengths such as curiosity, creativity, open-mindedness, love of learning and perspective. The task enables students to meet the requirements of the Creativity section of the new **Year 10 Record of Achievement** that students will receive from the Board of Studies on the completion of their secondary education.

**What is an Action Research Project?**

*‘Student action research is research that (a) is conducted by youth, within or outside of schools and classrooms informing and affecting school, community, and/or global problems and issues and (b) contributes to the positive development of a variety of academic, social, and civic skills in youth’* (Rubin and Jones 2007).

This project will provide you with an opportunity for to:

* Choose a topic you are interested in and even passionate about.
* Become better informed about your topic of interest through inquiry and applying effective research methods.
* Develop a deep understanding of this topic enabling *innovation* THROUGH *investigation*.
* Collect, synthesise, assess and evaluate the information and data collected throughout the investigation.
* Develop the skills to be a confident presenter and communicator.

**Why are we doing this?**

*‘The Australian National Curriculum will promote the opportunity for young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed citizens’* (Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals, 2008).

The Action Research Project will help provide these opportunities and assist in preparing students with outstanding skills that are essential for their Stage 6 studies.

**Outcomes**

Having completed your Action Research Project, you will need to demonstrate the following in your final presentation:

* A deep understanding of a specific topic that has been investigated. This topic will have stemmed from an area of interest such as a subject you enjoy or an activity outside school that you are passionate about.
* Evidence of extensive research that deepened your understanding of your topic.
* A plan of action (an investigation) resulting from your research.
* Effective methods for the collection of information and data for your investigation.
* The ability to analyse, synthesise, evaluate and communicate your research.

Your Action Research Project will also need to achieve the following:

* Evidence of contacting or working with an expert or mentor who has experience in this area.
* Demonstrate ICT skills in (i) research, (ii) data collection, (iii) collaboration, and (iv) presentation skills.
* A log of how the project developed.

**Timeline**

**Term 1 – Project Proposal**

* an overview of your topic of interest
* an overarching question that you would like answered through your investigation;
* the title of your Action Research Project; and,
* a proposal of how you will investigate your topic of interest through research and contacting experts.

You will be provided with a template to complete this proposal.

**Terms 2 - 3**

During this time you will need to independently carry out your Action Research Project. Goals and targets will be set and communicated to you through email and Year Meetings to help you keep your project moving. Scaffolds will be posted on Scholaris to help you progress through this stage of the project.

**Term 4**

In **Week 4**, you will be allocated a time to present your Action Learning Project through a Viva Voce. I.e. You will present your research to a panel consisting of a year 9 student, a parent and a teacher. All students will have access to support to prepare for this through scaffolds posted on Scholaris and afternoon workshops.

**Your learning log with its reflection and evaluation of your research will be used as an assessment task for Wisdom, Faith and Life Studies.**

**Action Research Marking Guidelines**

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| **Performance Descriptor** | **Marking Guidelines** |
| **Sophisticated** | * Insightful understanding of a topic that has been investigated extensively * Sophisticated analysis and synthesis of the research * Skilful communication of the ideas to a Viva Voce panel |
| **Effective** | * Thoughtful understanding of a topic that has been investigated extensively * Thoughtful analysis and synthesis of the research * Effective communication of the ideas to a Viva Voce panel |
| **Sound** | * Sound understanding of a topic that has been investigated * Sound analysis and synthesis of the research * Sound communication of the ideas to a Viva Voce panel |
| **Working towards** | * Limited understanding of a topic that has been investigated * Limited evidence of the research * Limited communication of the ideas to a Viva Voce panel |
| **Not demonstrated** | * Little or no attempt to engage with the demands of the task |