



InvestiGATE Project

A labour of love: introduction

The *InvestiGATE Project* is a revolutionary way to learn, emphasising depth of learning rather than content coverage. By combining their talents and gifts with their passions and interests, junior students (Year 9 – 10) choose an area of inquiry which interests them. No specific curriculum or discipline is dictated and the students own and drive the decision making, research process and outcome. While student's gain knowledge about a subject they are interested in, in a way which interests them, they are also acquiring analytical, logical and creative thinking skills and learning in a style which best 'fits' them. The project is driven by primary sources so is hands-on rather than relying on students to conduct secondary research. The emphasis is on doing, learning and enjoyment. While no formal assessment is conducted, self reflection and an evaluation interview with the GATED co-ordinator occur. An exhibition of student work is held in Term Four.



There are four main steps involved in the InvestiGATE Project - choosing and planning a project, researching and carrying out the project, and the production or presentation of the project combined with a high degree of personal reflection. The project once finished represents a significant piece of work which is the product of the student's own creativity and initiative.



Choosing an appropriate project

Students volunteer to complete a project. Through consultation with staff and the wider community, students choose their projects. Topics can be either academic or non-academic and may include hobbies, sports, theatre, community service, culture, and entrepreneurship. There may be ties to their family background, personal experiences, global issues etc.

Establishing benchmarks to keep students on track Establishing a benchmark to ensure students complete the project is important. The student will meet with the GATE coordinator or a mentor (a school teacher or member of the wider community) at least once a fortnight to check progress. The GATE Coordinator or mentor will act as a supervising the student and aiding them in the completion of the project), giving them advice and feedback on their projects.



The importance of parent and community support

Parent and community support play a vital role in the success of a student's passion project. The work is voluntary and to be completed out-of-class. While the project is an independent piece of work, the guidance and assistance from others is crucial. It helps the student to interact with the wider community establishing important relationships, and allows the young person to gain an understanding of how their learning within the school environment is relevant at a wider local, national and/or global level.



BY WHEN: Your P Project must be completed by the end of Term Four, 2011. There will be an exhibition of student work



Possible Topic choices

- ✓ Write poetry...short stories...novel...newspaper articles ...music ...poetry...play
- ✓ Community service project e.g. women's refuge (collecting second hand clothes, food, investigating the effects of abuse on children's academic achievement)
- ✓ Create a portfolio of art...sculpture.....photography
- ✓ Counseling and mentoring other students ...CBHS,... another school, ...an organization in our community
- ✓ Investigate ways to solve Environmental issues such as Recycling, the effects of the recent earthquake on Canterbury's economy....city's architecture
- ✓ Working with a scientist, economist, doctor, lawyer
- ✓ Humane society, Greenpeace, Amnesty International, RSPCA
- ✓ Investigate a Global, National or Community issue
- ✓ Make a product, market and sell it creating profit and loss statements
- ✓ Create a sustainable Gardening...Join the Environment Club and beautify our school by creating a landscape design....water wheel
- ✓ Create a Robot
- ✓ Research an issue relevant to our students e.g. the length of school day, effective teachers, NCEA vrs Cambridge, good teachers/bad teachers, learning styles, is teaching killing creativity?
- ✓ Make an animated film
- ✓ Learn how to play a guitar....do stunt work....ride



Possible Presentation Ideas

Students are encouraged to be creative in how they will display their learning and the outcomes of their research. Possible options may include:

- ✓ Photostory
- ✓ PPT display
- ✓ Film
- ✓ Virtual tours
- ✓ Publishing and selling their work
- ✓ School mural
- ✓ Tour Guide
- ✓ Exhibition of painting.... Photography.... Pottery.... sculpture
- ✓ CAD (Computer aided design)
- ✓ Software
- ✓ Oral Presentation
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Website design
- ✓ Build a robot



LASTLY, WHY DO IT?

- Channel your energy and enthusiasm in a way which you choose and you lead
- Pride of creating a piece of work at the end
- Challenge of stretching yourself at a level beyond classroom
- Why not.....?
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How does the project apply to life outside of school? What makes you think that this project is important to the community/world around you?

What tasks or activities will be required to complete this Project (and estimated dates of completion for each activity/step)?

Task

Date

Initial Passion Project Approval:

Signed
GATE Coordinator

Parent