



ABBOTSLEIGH SCHOOL SKILLS UP

Abbotsleigh is a K-12 girls school located in the Northern Suburbs of Sydney, NSW. Initially we decided to trial the ICDL with both staff and students. Participation for staff was voluntary and we were pleasantly surprised at the numbers who took it up and stuck with it throughout the year.

Over 30 staff in the Senior and Junior schools (including both teaching and support staff) have taken on the extra workload in order to improve their ICT skills. With just one more module to complete before gaining accreditation, they are finally beginning to realise the fruits of their labour.

“We feel that part of the success of the program to date is due to the use of a variety of learning methods” said a spokesperson for Abbotsleigh.

“The use of teacher led short tutorials incorporated with self paced computer based training materials has provided enough structure to gain a high percentage of first time passes (over 90%). We also introduced the ICDL program in 2004 as part of our extended tuition program to students, and we hope, with increased awareness through advertising (using the new ICDL posters and brochures) that the program attracts more students for our 2005 enrolments. “

Currently the Middle School has a series of short computer skills lessons, which are aimed at preparation for the upcoming CSA10 examination for the School Certificate. We use the same courseware as for the ICDL, mapping the relevant components to the skills required for this examination. Whilst not offering the ICDL to all students, the ICDL courseware offers a structure to students to help them pass their CSA10.

Comments from staff:

“My confidence with computers has risen significantly and I’m now more willing to use computers as part of my classroom teaching.”

“Taking the tests at the end of each module made me more aware of how students feel when I give them a test.”

“Even though I consider myself a fairly competent computer user, I have still been able to pick-up new tips and ways of doing things.”

Comments from students:

“I already knew some of the topics that we studied but we explored them in more depth which resulted in a more thorough understanding. I remember small helpful little things from the course that I use in my every day computing life. This course goes onto my application for my future job and will be a help to me in later life. I really enjoy ICDL.”

“ICDL has helped me a lot for both in and out of school things. At home I know much more about how to use my computer and at school I know a lot for tests. It has definitely helped to improve my computing skills.”