

“THINKING TOOLS”

In recent years, much curriculum development has focussed on building students’ capacities to **think** more deeply and richly. For example, an understanding of Habits of Mind enables students to think about their thinking; “how should I be thinking when approaching this problem?”

Students are not little adults and their brain circuitry is not complete until they are in their early twenties.

Thinking tools provide a scaffold for their brains to work through issues and problems in an organised way. They make their thinking and the thinking of classmates **visible**; students can see the processes being followed.

While the world is awash with information, our children are entering an era in which **creative** thinkers are required to make new connections and understandings from the knowledge available.

Many varying strategies and tools have been created to do just this; a number of them have been included for your son/daughter to access when faced with a challenge to think out.

Thinking Tools	Junior	Middle	Senior
What are the Levels of Thinking?		pg. 25	pg. 24
Thinking Tools	pg. 21	pg. 26	pg. 25
Know, What, How, Learnt Grid	pg. 144	pg. 153	pg. 143
Pluses, Minuses, Interesting	pg. 146	pg. 156	pg. 146
The Issues Matrix		pg. 152	pg.142
Y Diagram	pg. 147	pg. 157	pg.147
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis		pg. 154	pg.144
The Hand	pg. 149		
Think, Pair, Share	pg. 143	pg.151	pg. 148
The Six Thinking Hats	pg.145	pg.155	pg. 145
Glad, Mad, Sad	pg. 148	pg. 158	

Encouraging your son/daughter to use these tools will benefit his/her thinking capacity immensely.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your son/daughter’s progress please do not hesitate to contact his/her Year Level Co-ordinator/ Advisor.

“The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra” Anon.