



The Learning Exchange

Institute for Excellence in Learning & Teaching

The Learning Exchange Launch, Thursday, 18 January 2018.



Over 400 staff from Padua, Iona and St Laurence's Colleges gathered at IPAC, the Performing Arts Centre at Iona College, Lindum Queensland, for the launch of The Learning Exchange: Institute for Excellence in Learning & Teaching.

The Learning Exchange is a joint venture initiative between Iona, Padua and St Laurence's College, forming a new model for schools working together, sharing resources and developing teacher expertise. While there is a continuing priority on providing outstanding learning opportunities for the over 4,500 students enrolled in the colleges, there is a clear focus on developing personal excellence, for both students and teachers.



Maxine McKew, Honorary Enterprise Professor at the University Melbourne Graduate School of Education, presented the inaugural address, highlighting the need to transform learning in our schools and the essential work of expert teachers in making a difference to the lives of their students. While we are seeing great change in classrooms within many areas of Australia, and indeed globally, Maxine stressed the critical importance of engaging students with good literature and celebrating reading and writing practise in our classrooms.



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Paul Easton, former Director Performance, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta, was inducted as the inaugural Director of the institute. In his opening address Paul congratulated the Principals and Rectors of the Colleges for their vision, courage and commitment “in taking the step to create an institute that not only embodies the highest aspirations for students, but seeks to develop and celebrate excellence in teaching”.



In unpacking main theme of the day, “A New model for Learning Together”, Paul commended the staff on their continuing work and past successes. “Each of the colleges has much to be proud of. We have celebrated much success and our halls echo with the voices of alumni that have scaled heights beyond our expectations - you have changed the lives of thousands of young men. We have some of the best educational practitioners in the world sitting in this room today - we have the opportunity to celebrate, learn from and continue to further develop our expertise together”.

“... this is exactly what the exchange is about: sharing our expertise as we continue to educate the young men in our care, as we march towards 2019 and beyond. Together we will embrace these new challenges and do so much more.”

*Paul Easton, Director, The Learning Exchange:
Institute for Excellence in Learning & Teaching.*

The day concluded with teachers working together in a series of tailored workshops focussed on student-centred learning and developing 21st century thinking skills that will enable students to be active participants in a future workforce very different to the one we now know. Staff also presented a number of joint projects being actioned across the colleges that will enable the sharing of expertise and prepare teachers for the new challenges ahead.

