



MEDIA RELEASE

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Newington significantly enhances boys' learning

Newington College's Preparatory School at Lindfield has installed a revolutionary new sound system that will have a significant impact on improving learning outcomes for boys at the school.

A high technology microphone placed on the teacher is connected to a single wireless receiver at the back of the classroom. This projects the teacher's voice around the classroom evenly, so that learning is maximised for every boy, as he always clearly hears what the teacher is saying.

However, this is not a simple microphone attached to a speaker. The key difference is that this system uses infra-red light waves to project sound. As a result, it doesn't matter where in the room the teacher stands, the system will pick it up.

This system works well because students can hear so much more effectively. Normally, from the back of the room, students only hear 80% of what is being said. With the microphone on the teacher, 100% of what is being said can be heard by all boys in the room. Peripheral noise disappears, because there is no struggle to hear the messages being conveyed.

Research shows when messages are heard more clearly, it can improve a child's learning by up to 33%. One of our Year 2 boys has already remarked, "This is great. I know I am going to learn better!"

The Head of the Preparatory School, Mr David Hine, said, "We had the new classroom sound system put in each classroom as part of our redevelopment. The feedback from the boys, staff and parents has been incredibly positive and we have only had it installed for a few weeks".

One Year 6 teacher has found that the boys are now much quieter, so he has trained himself to talk more softly. There is no need to project his voice to the back of the room any more, which has the added benefit of reducing vocal fatigue.

It is not only the teachers who have a microphone. The boys also have their own microphone for times when they have to address the class, such as sharing their news, or delivering a PowerPoint presentation.

The Lindfield Prep School is one of the few schools in Australia to have installed this amazing new technology and the school confident it is going to benefit the learning outcomes for the boys, now and in the future. So successful has been its introduction that parents have asked where they can purchase the system for use at home.

For more information, please contact:

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The photos below show:

Left – Teachers with microphone

Right – Wireless receiver at back of classroom



Please note – Photos of a Newington teacher and boy, in class and wearing the microphones, has been supplied separately with this media release.

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

FACTS REGARDING THE HEAR AND LEARN SYSTEM

- For all students in all settings, this technology boosts learning by ensuring that the teaching and learning programs are delivered to all learners most effectively.
- The technology assists teachers to better manage their classrooms. Listening conditions in teaching spaces can be compromised and often do not allow the unaided spoken word and the other messages conveyed by teachers to be genuinely heard by all students in a satisfactory way.
- The poorer the quality of the voice, the poorer a student's recall of presented material. An unaided voice places additional demands on the listener, which interferes with registration and comprehension of information.
- In South Australia, an experiment was conducted with Year 6 children. The subjects took a spelling test on one day, without the benefit of this technology. The next day the children were told that the results had been misplaced and they would have to take the spelling test again. With the aid of this revolutionary technology, the same children took the same test and the results were 20% better. The children heard all the sounds of the words much better, because they were getting the full message, all the time.
- In a study done in Florida, results showed significantly greater literacy gains for students, and in particular for bilingual and special education students, in classrooms where this technology had been installed. Overwhelmingly, there were positive changes in attention, classroom participation, and learning.
- There is a reduction in vocal strain and fatigue for teachers. This increases the teacher's ability to gain and maintain students' attention.
- In Canada, a particular province introduced this technology on a large scale. In the first 12 months, teacher absenteeism had decreased by 34%, largely due to reduced vocal strain.
- It is natural for teachers to project their voices when necessary to attract the class' attention, speak to a student at the other end of the room or even be able to have the students hear clearly at all times. Classroom management was much easier using this technology, because students can respond quickly and as required, to directions given.
- The delivery of clearer and more easily understood instructions means that students at the back of the class no longer remain off task, because they can hear exactly what the teacher is asking, and they can respond immediately.