(Re)igniting the Faculty Fire - Using Research as the Spark

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Founded in 1901, The Southport School is an Anglican day and boarding school for boys from Prep (Reception) to Year 12.

The School's student population is close to 1650 of whom 1000 are in the Senior School. This includes 325 boarders.

The vision of the School is to be acknowledged as a world-class day and boarding school for boys as it aims to create a balanced and holistic learning community.
What’s the plan for this session?

2. The journey to initiate a research program
3. Expectations and Challenges
4. The next step ... a discussion on expanding and developing research in our schools
The initial driving force – IBSC Action Research

2014-15: Boys as Makers
Boys’ Education

- Academic growth
- Social Emotional development
- Cerebral and Physical growth
- Parent and Community
Staff Research Program...

Responsibility: To promote and support best practice in Boys’ Education

- Academic
- Cerebral and Physical
- Social and Emotional
- Parental and Community

Prep and Senior Staff invited to apply – six in total:

- Research cycle – 18 months – includes:
  - Literature Reviews
  - Presenting to staff
  - Paper publication
  - Action Research
  - Conference presentations
  - Role model best practice
Literature Review

To discover and review what has already been published, and consider its relevance...
Action Research

To examine, and ultimately improve pedagogy and practice...

Interpretation of action research spiral, Kemmis and McTaggart (2004)
The Research Program would be founded on three main pillars:

- Sourcing authoritative resources that support best practice in the teaching of boys

- Supporting teachers by: providing essential and accessible on and off-line resources, encouraging action research, and creating opportunities to participate in global scholarly conversations

- Supporting parents seeking expertise in the raising of boys
Ultimately ... the four main aims are ...

• To encourage staff to engage with recent research on boys’ education

• To give staff a platform to share their passion with colleagues and the educational community

• Present staff as role models for best practice and further formal post-graduate study

• To improve the intellectual and emotional outcomes of our students
Areas of focus for the School Research Centre Program would include, but are not limited to:

- academic development
- artistic growth
- social and emotional intelligence
- Identity
- Leadership
  - physical and emotional growth
  - community connections
- supporting parents
Some of the challenges:

• Initial interest from staff – what’s the incentive?
• Selecting a focus area – how can this be made into Action Research?
• Staff fatigue – I have too many other things on at the moment...
• Sticking to the schedule – when can we meet?
• Resourcing – who provides the online subscriptions and access?
• Funding – who pays for conference attendance?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term One</th>
<th>Term Two</th>
<th>Term Three</th>
<th>Term Four</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
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<td>Confirmation of up to 6 Researchers by T4 W6. Research Fellows to confirm research focus and commence professional reading.</td>
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<td>January Staff Days meeting for Researchers.</td>
<td>One-on-one meeting to discuss progress scheduled Week 2/3.</td>
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<td>Research and Literature Review #1 presented at meeting scheduled Week 6/7.</td>
<td>Research and Literature Review #2 presented at meeting scheduled Week 6/7.</td>
<td>Research and Literature Review #3 presented at meeting scheduled Week 7/8.</td>
<td>Initiate Conference Paper publication based on research findings.</td>
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<td>Two Researchers present research focus areas at All Academic Staff meeting.</td>
<td>Initiate Action Research.</td>
<td>Complete Action Research.</td>
<td>Consider IBSC Conference Application.</td>
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<td>Consider potential Conference workshop presentation.</td>
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<td>Confirmation of up to 6 Researchers by T4 W7. Research Fellows to confirm research focus and commence professional reading.</td>
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<td>2023</td>
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<td>One-on-one meeting to discuss progress scheduled Week 2/3.</td>
<td>Two Researchers present research focus areas at All Academic Staff meeting.</td>
<td>Invite Second Intake of Researchers applications to be submitted by T4 W4.</td>
<td>One-on-one meeting to discuss progress scheduled Week 2/3.</td>
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<td>2024</td>
<td>Term One</td>
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<td><strong>FIRST INTAKE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SECOND INTAKE</strong></td>
<td><strong>BOTH</strong></td>
<td><strong>FIRST INTAKE</strong></td>
<td><strong>SECOND INTAKE</strong></td>
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<td>January Staff Days meeting for First and Second Intake Researchers.</td>
<td>First and Second Intake: one-on-one meeting to discuss progress scheduled Week 2/3.</td>
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<td>Researchers present research focus areas at All Academic Staff meeting.</td>
<td>First Intake meet in Week 4/5 to discuss and peer review papers for publication. Researchers present (abridged) papers for feedback.</td>
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<td>Initiate Conference Paper publication based on research findings.</td>
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<td>Second Intake: one-on-one meeting Week 3/4. Research and Literature Review #1 meeting and presentation Week 6/7.</td>
<td>First Intake welcome to join discussion.</td>
<td>First Intake concludes.</td>
<td>Round Three Intake TBC.</td>
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Inaugural Research Topics

• Boys and literacy:
  * An investigation into establishing effective reading strategies to develop a love and appreciation for reading in teenage boys.
Boys and academic acceleration:
* A narrative qualitative exploration of the lived experiences of boys who have been academically accelerated.
Inaugural Research Topics

• Boys and Belonging:
  * An exploration of ‘belonging’ at TSS.
So, what next ...?