It truly is a great time to be involved in education.

As passionate educators we were pleased to host Professor Heppell at a number of informative events during November.

Professor Stephen Heppell has in the last twenty years been described as Europe's most influential academic in the field of technology and education, and a leading researcher who has amassed a vast portfolio of large scale, successful learning projects. He is a professor at Universidad Camilo José Cela in Spain and at Bournemouth University in the UK.

Stephen conducted a public forum with the topic of ‘10 Ways Schools will be different in 2020” and then continued to expand on this concept with students and staff at follow up sessions.

Learning is a forever journey. Stephen understands this better than anyone. He also knows more than most about how children learn best; how schools can better serve children’s learning; and how learning has to be our single most important investment in a rapidly evolving world where change is the only constant.

Professor Stephen Heppell discusses 10 ways schools will be different in 2020.
ELTHAM Experiences

Choir

“I really enjoy the school choir. It’s a lot of fun with games and jokes, amazing voices and interesting song choices. I also learnt a lot and found out Aussies got a different version of Jingle Bells! Performing Christmas Carols with the junior choir and in front of the parents is an awesome experience”.

Chloe Kwok

Digital Art (Photography)

“It’s really a good course. We learn a lot about photoshop on Mac, we’ve learnt about things like cropping pictures, inserting pictures into another picture and merging it together. The zombie task was really a fun task. We got to learn how make up is done, how to shoot from different angles and what effect every angle will be in our comic. We enjoyed it because we look ridiculous after our make up, we got to scare people around us. Besides, Andrew aka Andy is also a very nice teacher, he allowed us to work while having fun, but we always finish our task. I think that’s how learning should be! I would recommend Digital Art to all students in Year 10”.

CY Yap

Making Connections (Year 9)

Year 9 international students have had many opportunities to make connections with Year 9 local students studying in ELTHAM College’s City Campus including visiting the City Campus, taking part in the Year 9 Camp to Wilson’s Promontory and attending Home Economics classes with other Year 9 students at our Research Campus. These shared activities and experiences aim to strengthen the ties between local and international students at ELTHAM.
ELTHAM Experiences continued ...

Preston Market Excursion

Preston Market, established in 1970, is one of the few traditional markets still operating in Melbourne. The market, with over 130 stalls, showcases the best of Australia’s fresh produce from green grocers to fresh fish, poultry and meat. It is also a prime example of Australia’s cultural diversity. Stall owners, customers, and best of all food, spans the breadth of Australia’s migrant population.

The market visit formed part of the Lifeskills program which prepares students for independent living after graduation. The goal was to introduce students to the activities involved in preparing food for themselves, from shopping to budgeting.

Many students were surprised and excited to discover that they were able to buy vegetables ‘from home’ even in Australia. This discovery certainly spurred them on to create a healthy and tasty meal plan.

“The excursion to Preston Market was a very fulfilling experience and granted me a lot more knowledge on managing money and having a balanced diet”.

Tim Lam

Hans Zhou and CY Yap

Chloe Kwok at the Preston Market
ELTHAM Experiences continued ...

Outdoor Education—Journey to the Top

A group of 11 students who have been undertaking Outdoor Education at ELTHAM finished their course with a week long trek in the Victorian High Country. Students learn the skills required to survive and be prepared for outdoor experiences during their course and must carry their own belongings and food as they make their journey. One of the biggest highlights was reaching the top of Mt Bogong with packs and equipment to watch an amazing sunrise from the roof of Victoria. Mt Bogong is the highest peak in Victoria. Martin Yu is the first ever international student to take on the challenge of the Journey to the Top. Here is a reflection of his experience:

“This is my first time camping, I really enjoyed this trip and had a lot of fun and got a lot of experience. Everyone is friendly to me. Especially Andy, I was in a group with him and he helped me a lot. Guy is a really good teacher, he is very funny and helps me a lot especially in English. He explains the meaning of the words I don’t know patiently and he makes me feel a member of the group. The trip let me see a lot of amazing and beautiful views that I have never seen before. I really had fun with these guys on this trip and will treasure the memory with them.”

Martin Yu at the top of Mt Bogong

Martin with a fellow student
Quang began his education at ELTHAM College in Year 7, 2009. He studied at the school from Year 7 to Year 12 (2009-2014). Since his arrival from Vietnam to begin his studies in Australia, Quang has utilised every opportunity offered to him to enhance his understanding of this school and the Australian culture. He demonstrates those cultural and personal values that International educators hope most students will achieve through study in another country.

Here is an extract of the speech delivered by Quang at the Year 12 Valedictory Dinner 2014:

“Looking back on my time at ELTHAM, I can still clearly remember my arrival in Australia. The decision to leave family and friends in Vietnam to live and study overseas was huge. I was terrified of the new life that I was going to face and I guess this is the same experience for all international students coming to study at ELTHAM. I did not know what to expect and when I arrived on the morning of 28th January 2009, I was both nervous and excited about starting this new adventure.

Facing this new life away from my Vietnamese family and culture has changed me into a completely different person. When I first arrived I was shy and had a lot of difficulty with the language. However, through perseverance and spending a lot of time around Aussie kids, my language has improved. Through involvement in sport, both in and out of school, I have grown in confidence and made many friends. I have developed from a young Vietnamese kid to a grown up Vietnamese Aussie teenager.”
Looking Back – 1 Year On

Students Venus Yang and Yulia Cai both graduated from ELTHAM College in 2013. Venus is now studying Commerce at the University of Melbourne and Yulia is undertaking Design Architecture at the University of Sydney. Here are their reflections on their time at ELTHAM:

“As a Chinese student, I really appreciate and miss the time I had spent in ELTHAM College.

Studying here really give me different experience when study in China. Teacher here acts more like a friend, you can share everything with them, you can even talk about your personal life and they always give you advice. Since there are also people from different cultures, you also can learn a lot from each other. It’s like a big family, you feel welcomed and loved.

People at ELTHAM think of everyone as an individual, it is your own duty to take care of your study, the teacher is only one source for you to improve your knowledge. They are there, you feel free to ‘use’ them. Because of that, studying somehow make me happy, it is not a frustration for me anymore. You are respected and you always have the opportunity to do better.

This is why I love ELTHAM College, it will always be my home.”

Venus Yang

"ELTHAM College is a place of cultures, and of learning for young people. I have spent my precious senior years here. More important than the satisfying VCE ATAR score that I gained from ELTHAM, ELTHAM was the outlook through which I could learn about Australia. This is very valuable in my life. As a graduated international student, I moved to Sydney after I have settled down in Melbourne for two years. Moving to a new country or city may be a difficult journey. However, thanks to ELTHAM College, I have tackled different cultures and overcome hardships, which helped me adjust well to life in a new environment. In Sydney, I live in a student accommodation with all Australian local girls. It is a bit surprising that we make true friends, not only ‘getting along well’. Although it is sometimes bizarre to bump into the situations that remind me of how apart I am in Australian culture, my local housemates do not regard me as an international student. Instead, kind of ‘Australian local’. We can understand one another and share the common topics. I think this is because what I have learned and shaped at ELTHAM College. I appreciate what I have picked up at ELTHAM—to think independently and critically, to enjoy the learning process. Currently, I am studying design in Architecture at the University of Sydney, the learning habits that I shaped at ELTHAM—verbalising opinions and being open minded, help me with my creation."

Yulia Cai
Subject selection with the LifeWork team

For many internationals students selecting subjects in Australian can seem overwhelming. At home schools offer ‘traditional’ subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. While in Australia ‘A Beginner’s Guide to Ideas’ or ‘Theatre Studies’ are on offer.

‘Subject selection is an exciting time for students’, says Melissa Jenkins LifeWork Advisor. ‘It gives the student a chance to explore their interests and academic strengths’. But Melissa also cautions that subject selection can have a big impact on university course eligibility. ‘This is why we meet with every student to help them select subjects that match their interests and skills and university entry requirements.’

At ELTHAM the LifeWork Centre ensures students select the right subjects for them. Starting from Year 9, students undertake aptitude and interest testing as well as having regular one on one meetings with a LifeWork Advisor to discuss their university and career goals.

This month the International Department conducted a subject selection morning for six international students commencing at the College in Term 1, 2015. The students (pictured below) met with Melissa Jenkins and Margie Jordan to talk about the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) program and how the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) is calculated.

Judy Rothacker, Director International Students, says, ‘we like to get students thinking about their subject choices as early as possible. Correct planning ensures students pick subjects that they enjoy and will do well in. The natural result of this is a top ATAR and a place in their university of choice!’

Need more information about VCE, the ATAR or subjects on offer at ELTHAM College? The International Department is happy to assist!