



Parent Communication re G Suite

During 2016, in Middle and Senior Schools, a trial was conducted by some staff and students in the use of G Suite (Google Suite) as a tool to support student learning.

Positive feedback from the trial resulted in a decision being made by Pedare's ICT Strategic Committee to mandate the use of G Suite as a tool to support and facilitate learning in the Middle and Senior Schools during 2017. In Term 4, a further review will be undertaken.

What is Google Suite?

- It is a free suite of online (internet) tools (such as Google Classroom, Google Documents, Google Slides etc.) that provides teachers with a consistent approach to delivering classroom content to students.

What is Google Classroom?

- Google Classroom is a cloud based learning platform for schools that enables teachers to simplify the creating and distributing of assignments and information to students in a paperless way. The link below gives a short overview of how Google Classroom works.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K26iyyQMp_g
- One common question is that of the issue of privacy in a cloud based product. G Suite used in an educational setting (as Pedare is doing) provides additional security, administrative and archiving controls for education customers.
- Please note the College is **not** using the Gmail feature of G Suite. We will continue using our email service through Microsoft Outlook.
- The link below is a good reference point to research some of the commonly asked questions.
<https://support.google.com/a/answer/139019?hl=en>

What are the benefits of Google Classroom for teachers?

- It is a simple cloud based system that is easy to setup and maintain
- It can be accessed from any device (windows, all Apple devices, mobile phone)
- The process to set up classes and enrol students in each class is simple
- Teachers can post an assignment with completion dates for a class (each student receives their own individual copy). Teachers can then monitor in real time each student's progress and submission on that assignment. Teachers can mark and grade the assignment online and return the work to the student with comments.
- Teachers can post resources (such as other documents, web links, youtube videos etc.) for their classes which students can then access as needed.

What are the benefits for students?

- Google Classroom has an intuitive and simple interface for students across all platforms
- Google Classroom offers the benefit of going mostly paperless. Links to reading material provided by teachers can or may eliminate the need for paper handouts to students. Likewise, videos, presentations and other attachments can be uploaded to Google Classroom by teachers for access by students.
- Student work done on Google Classroom is automatically saved to the cloud, with the ability to turn on 'offline' mode so that work can be completed without an internet connection
- Students can receive direct and individual feedback from teachers

The implementation of G Suite in 2017 is being managed by the ICT Operational Committee:

- Staff are receiving ongoing Professional Learning and support regarding how to use G Suite to improve the learning outcomes for students in Middle and Senior Schools
- The Committee has set teaching staff expectations to achieve by the end of each term
- The Committee will conduct a review of the G Suite implementation during Term 4 of 2017.

The College asks that parents:

- Understand that the implementation of Google Classroom will be occurring gradually during 2017, and that your child/children may not be using Google Classroom for all of their classes
- Understand that Google Classroom will only be used by teachers for student work when that process is suitable for the task. For example, a mathematics task is most likely best suited to be done on paper. In some cases, the assignment task may be posted on Google Classroom, and the students will be required to submit the task in paper form. Those decisions will be made by the teacher on a case by case basis.
- Discuss with your child/children regarding their exposure to Google Classroom, and ask them their opinion of the benefits of using Google Classroom. Ask them to show you what their Google Classroom looks like on their device.