What’s happening in MYP classrooms?

Year 6 (1) Technology/Science/Mathematics

Unit Question: ‘How can we program microchips to solve sustainability problems?’

Promoting the study of Science, Technology and Mathematics by girls is a major focus of our middle year’s program. Year 6 students recently had the opportunity to learn how to program microchips through a series of workshops facilitated by leaders in this field ‘eLabtronics’.

Students worked collaboratively to solve problems set in a sustainability context. The successful solving of these problems required students to understand and use the design cycle. Further, they were called on to think in both a highly critical and creative manner.

Society’s problems are more often than not solved in an interdisciplinary manner. As such the IB MYP promotes the use of interdisciplinary learning as it allows students to make connections between learning areas which deepens their knowledge of the content explored. This experience allowed students to develop a purposeful understanding in the learning areas of Science, Technology and Mathematics.

The workshop culminated with the students exploring how programming microchips can be used in a social justice context. Students were asked to create a thermostat that would adjust temperatures in a greenhouse thereby allowing villagers to grow vegetables all year round. ‘eLabtronics’ will be delivering these thermostats to Kyrgyzstan in the very near future.

Look out for Loreto students at the STEMSEL display at The Royal Adelaide Show where they will be competing in a microchip programming competition.

“I learnt a new way of solving problems, because I got to use things I have never used before to solve the problems that was given.”

“The most important thing I learned was how to program a microchip because not a lot of people in the world today know how to do that and I think it’s a once in a life time opportunity.”