

## HAILEYBURY COLLEGE CASE STUDY

Meet Clare Mackie – Head of English Middle School at Haileybury College



### **The Facts:**

- Library Team Staff: 13
- Number of Campuses: 4 in Victoria
- Number of English Teachers: 52
- Year Levels using Renaissance: Year 7 and 8
- Number of students: 963

### **WHY IS READING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM AT HAILEYBURY?**

My remit as a new head of department was to aim for continuous literacy development, even at a school as high performing as Haileybury.

The best place to start was reading. It is the fundamental skill; we know that good readers in the middle years will make for good writers in later years. Reading has the capacity to build skills in several different areas of literacy.

We didn't have a wider reading program in Year 7 and 8, it concluded in Year 6. There were some initiatives to try and cultivate borrowing but we really didn't know whether the students were reading books that were right for them or if they were even finishing the books. We found it hard to determine the impact of these initiatives, despite how good of an idea they may have been.

One of our Teacher Librarians then contacted me and said there is this program called Renaissance and I think this could be what you're looking for.

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### WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST IMPACT TO YOUR PROGRAMS AFTER INTRODUCING RENAISSANCE?

There's a couple of impacts that all lead to improved outcomes for our students.

Teachers felt empowered because we had a program that allowed us to work out firstly the reading range for an individual student and secondly which books in our library collections were right for them.

Students are empowered because they now know their reading range or Zone of Proximal development (ZPD). They can then jump onto our Oliver library system, type in that they want a detective fiction novel, they want it to be between 5.0 and 7.5 reading level and how old they are. Oliver then returns the books from our collections that best fits their search criteria.

We noticed very early on that we didn't have the right books in our libraries to cater for our older students. Most likely because there wasn't a lot of reading engagement at Year 7/8 and that the library was investing in books for our 5/6 cohort.

**R**enaissance allowed us to make informed decisions to fill gaps in our collections and put books on our shelves that students were going to pick up, relish and enjoy reading.

The impact of Renaissance has been fantastic in solidifying connections between our library and English departments. From a curriculum leadership perspective, Renaissance has given weight and validation to our reading program by making it assessable.

Watch the Full Video Here →

