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REASONS WHY DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE IS NEEDED FOR YOUR SCHOOL

WHAT IS DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Disruptive technologies, one of the new and popular phrases to enter our vernacular, refers to innovation which involves significant change impacting a business, sector, or service, that endeavours to provide a better outcome. It is not change for the sake of change because new technology is available, but rather change for a greater good.

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

The education sector has experienced many and varied disruptive technologies in the last few decades:

Introduction of email for staff, students, and parents.

Internet ('I'll just Google it').

Student information systems (SIS).

Computer labs.

One-to-one programs.

Bring Your Own Device.

School apps for mobile technologies.

Online testing.

Communication portals.

Learning management systems (LMS).

1.
INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES TO INNOVATE

Time is valuable and there is never enough of it. Anything that can help your teachers to spend less time on operational and administrative matters is a plus because this means they can spend more time doing what they do best — teaching students.

With disruptive technologies, you can buy back time for staff and this means they have the opportunity to get creative and innovate. They can then focus on delivering an engaging curriculum and ensuring that the learning needs of each and every student are taken care of — after all, no student learns at the same pace or in the same manner.
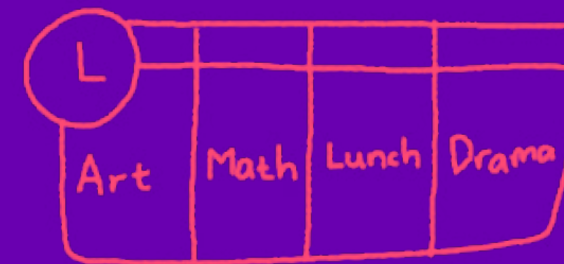
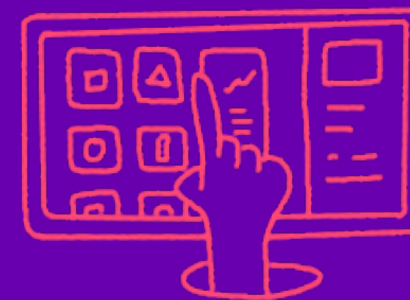Look at streamlining things like:
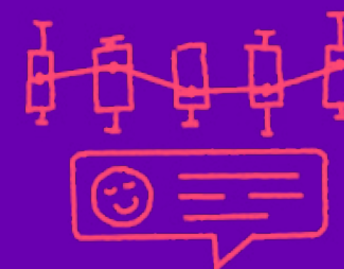
Enrolments

Classes

Timetables

Resources

Learning Materials

Assessments

Reporting

Pastoral Care

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See student engagement flourish

With innovation, students can participate in their learning at their own pace, in their own time, and undertake activities set for them which are measurable and in which they can self-reflect on their learning.

Watch collaboration go global

The opportunity for students to connect with, learn from, and form an understanding of others' lives is a phenomenal extension of the traditional classroom setting. And with **modern educational technology**, it is possible to collaborate with those outside your own class, school, state, region or indeed, nation.

Witness time for learning increase

Using an innovative pedagogical practice like **flipped learning** enables higher-level thinking and increases time for learning by enabling teachers to support students inside and outside the classroom.

2.
PROVIDE SIMPLICITY

There can be some resistance from staff with any new technological change, but by demonstrating the ease with which the new platform, technology or device will enhance teaching and/or operational processes, it's possible to reduce the resistance.

"The key here is seamless integrations."

The reality is, when selective systems are used in schools and are integrated optimally, teachers and students are supported as they move from system to system and are able to recognise the benefits—this is simplicity at its best.

Here are some key integrations that will provide simplicity for your school:

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Student Information System: with this integration, information from the SIS regarding student names, subjects, classes, timetables, and extra-curricular undertakings, can be pushed to the LMS enabling a simple and direct connection.

Third-party LTI tools: by embedding third-party learning tools into your LMS, you will extend its capabilities and enable the addition of new tools in one place.

Collaborative resources: an integration with Google Drive or MS OneDrive enables direct upload so your teachers and students can manage and collaborate in real-time for a particular project or extracurricular activity with one single sign on.

Video conferencing tools: in situations of remote or distance learning, having video tools embedded into your LMS can be extremely handy to maintain relationships beyond the classroom.

3.
DECREASE THE NEED FOR SUPPORT

When school systems have clear purpose and optimal integration, the support required by staff lessens. Of course, whenever a new system is introduced, particularly one as significant as a **learning management system**, staff will require initial training. However, once a level of competency is achieved, you may find the level of support calls drop off.
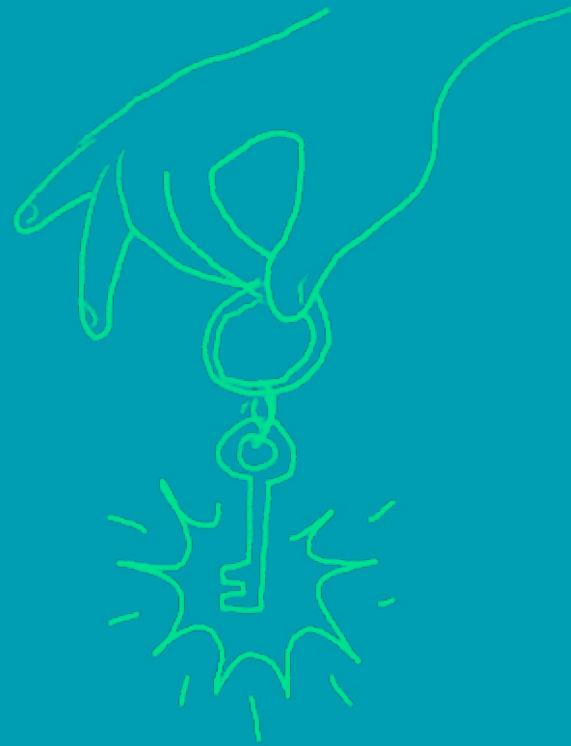
"Consolidation of systems is therefore high on the agenda for any school."

The solution? SAAS (software as a service) based products like **Schoolbox** enable your school to remove administration overheads. This allows your school's information technology staff to use their time to focus on business processes and analysis, so that they can continue to take your school forward with appropriate and up-to-date technologies.

One of the key methods available in SAAS based products to achieve this consolidation is via Single Sign On (SSO), allowing users to only login once, and they will be able to find all that they need in one place — personal data, course materials, learning tools and so on.

With Schoolbox, you can also easily embed learning activities from third party platforms so students are not required to login in and out of different platforms. This process of logging in and out can consume valuable teaching time, especially if there are login issues when switching from one platform to another.

4.

CREATE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSISTENCY

To ensure the best learning journey for each and every student, it is imperative that school data is accurate and that one system — usually the **Student Information System** — remains the point of truth. By having one system as the source of truth, all other systems like the **learning management system or communication portal** will also house the same data.

With this level of data interoperability, your school will see several benefits...

The whole student approach

For student success, academic skills alone are insufficient. Students need to be supported in many other ways and a **whole student approach** is required. Having accurate data, coming from your Student Information System and your LMS, relating to each and every student will ensure you can tailor lesson plans, teaching approaches, and support your students to achieve success.

Reporting is streamlined

When systems contain accurate and clear information, and data that is accessible and transparent, parents are provided with a consistent view of their child's academic outcomes and pastoral care comments.

Burden is reduced for executive team

Where there is clarity with storage and use of school data, any external reviews the executive team needs to partake in will be far less burdensome. These reviews may be needed to meet funding requirements or maybe due to government directive. When all data from your School Information System or LMS is linked, there is less room for error or differences between these crucial reports required by the executive team.
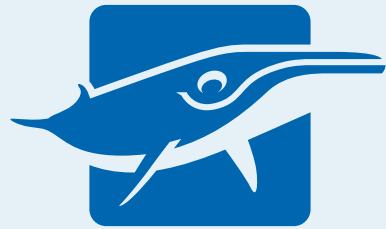
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IS YOUR SCHOOL READY?

As providers of **21st century education**, our students need us to embrace disruptive technologies and support them as they navigate their way towards a new future.

No doubt, teaching and learning has been positively enhanced by the majority of disruptive technologies and in addition, school administrative operations have become more efficient, accurate and consistent.

Disruptive technologies, evolving technological change, digital evolution, whichever phrase you prefer, is here and by embracing it, your school will benefit greatly — are you ready?

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