



Case Study

# Northcote High School

Melbourne Victoria, Australia

Melody Gabriel is Head of Science at Northcote High School, Melbourne Victoria, Australia. She has been using Boardworks International Science Age 11–14 and Science Age 14–16 Core, Additional and Separate resources in her lessons since January 2009. She and other members of her faculty teach junior and senior science on the school’s virtual learning space, so that the kids can access the presentations again and reinforce their own learning by working through them at their own pace.

Melody feels that her Boardworks resources cover the Australian national curriculum very successfully. “The Separate Science resource is perfect for our year 11 and 12 students, and our other three resources work really well for the years below that,” she says. “It’s exactly the right depth, the pitch is great and it’s on the right topics.” Melody loves the PowerPoint format: the fact that the resources are editable means that she can use the presentations in conjunction with her own material. “I have edited a few of the presentations – taken bits out and put my own stuff in, – but they’re so good I don’t have to make many changes because it’s what I would have put in myself anyway!”

Melody finds the animations particularly useful. “They’re great for showing things you can’t easily visualise – it takes time to draw a diagram. The students really love the animations – they really do bring concepts to life, especially really abstract concepts like electrons.”

The virtual experiments in the resources allow the science teachers at Melody’s school to perform experiments outside of the lab. “They’re fantastic because they show you the graphing and the whole process. They’re really good if you can’t be in a lab every lesson, and they mean you can show students experiments that you can’t do for real.”

Melody believes that Boardworks resources have really changed science teaching and learning at her school. She says: “One member of staff, who’s been teaching for the best part of thirty years said to me, ‘I don’t have to write on the board again – it’s great!’. It’s changed how he does things – you find new ways of doing things, and the kids love it, as soon as you turn on the projector. I think they’re great. I’d buy them all!”